

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXVI.]

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BIRTHS.

- On October 21st, to Mr. and Mrs. R. P. SILBY, at Shanghai, a daughter.
- On October 22nd, at Shanghai, the wife of T. J. ROCHE, of a daughter.
- On October 25th, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mr. ALBERT TAYLOR, a daughter.
- On October 29th, at 6 Conduit Road, to wife of W. S. ALLEN, a son.

MARRIAGES.

- On October 24th, at Shanghai, LAURENCE CHARLES BIOT EDMONDSTON, to ISABELLA BEA D.
- On October 20th, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, FRANK OSWALD, youngest son of A. A. DAY of Sydney, N.S.W., to KATHLEEN MAY, fourth daughter of the late P. FLETCHER-WATSON, of Devonshire, England.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of October 4th arrived, per the s.s. *Devanka*, on Thursday, the 31st ultimo.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Receipts into the Treasury between January 1st and August 31st totalled \$8,774,128.45, while the payments out were \$8,855,182.13. The payments out, therefore exceeded the receipts by \$81,053.68.

We are courteously informed by Mr. Evan Ormiston, the Manager, at Hongkong, that the Directors of the Mercantile Bank of India have declared an Interim Dividend on the "A" and the "B" Shares of the Bank for the half-year ending 30th June last, at the rate of 6 per cent, per annum, free of Income Tax.

The Subsidiary Coinage Committee, composed of Hon. Mr. A. M. Thomson, Colonial Treasurer, (Chairman), Hon. Mr. E. Osborne, Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, Messrs. J. Armstrong, D. R. Law, R. Shawan, A. J. Raymond, J. R. M. Smith and A. G. Wood, has ceased its deliberations after three meetings, and the report will be furnished to H.E. the Governor in due course.

A *Daily Press* telegram dated Tokyo, October 30th says:—A "Jiji" extra reports a mutiny at Vladivostok. The bluejackets on the torpedo boats bombarded the naval station and other buildings. The troops attacked the torpedoes, one of which surrendered. There is great excitement in the city.

A *Daily Press* telegram dated Tokyo, October 31st said:—It does not appear as if the mutiny at Vladivostok had endangered the city. It was confined to the harbour and military quarters, and has been suppressed.

At the Peak Church on October 27th Mrs. A. E. Robinson, widow of the late Mr. Ed. Robinson, barrister-at-law, was married to Captain H. I. Black, of the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Company's steamboat *Powan*. The Rev. F. T. Johnson was the officiating clergyman, and many friends of the parties were present to witness the ceremony. The bride, who was prettily attired in a dress of pale green taffeta silk, was attended by her little daughter May, and Miss Gwendoline Stevenson, as bridesmaids. Captain John Marchant, A.P.D., attended the bridegroom as best man, and Mr. B. W. Grey gave away the bride. A reception was afterwards held at 9, Mountain View, where numerous friends of the happy couple foregathered to offer their felicitations. Mr. and Mrs. Black left by the mid-day steamer for Macao.

There is no foundation for the report that the Third Division of the Luchun, now in Manchuria, is to be sent to Chientao as a demonstration against the Japanese. There are only about a thousand troops in the neighbourhood of the island, and China has no intention of pitting her military forces against those of Japan. Everything that can be done to avoid a collision with the Japanese over this frontier dispute is being carried out by the Grand councillors of state Yuan Shih-kai and Chang Chih-tung with the support of Prince Ching. Negotiations are still in progress between the Waiwupu and the Japanese Chargé d'Affaires and a satisfactory settlement is anticipated. The prospect of an alliance between the two countries, mooted in some quarters, must, however, be regarded as remote; for it is open to question whether the present feelings of the Chinese authorities towards Japan are better than they were at the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War in 1894.

ANOTHER SEIZURE OF MORPHINE.

\$2,000 WORTH CONFISCATED.

That the morphine traffic is still going on in the Colony contrary to law was proved by the seizure of three cases by Mr. G. Hoggarth, Chief Excise Officer, in godown No. 18 of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co. at Kowloon on the 24th instant. The cases were marked "glass with care," and had been consigned as apothecaries' ware. On being opened they were found to contain 50 bottles of morphia hydro-chloride, which were of an approximate value of \$2,000. Consignees for the goods could not be found, and at the Police Court on October 30th Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon), acting on behalf of the Opium Farm, applied to Mr. Hazeland for the forfeiture of the goods. Mr. Hoggarth proved that no storage for the three cases had been delivered to the Opium Farm, nor had any such storage permit been countersigned by, or on behalf of, the Opium Farm. Mr. Ralph Packham, cargo superintendent at the Godowns, told the Court that the cases were manifested as apothecaries' ware and should have been placed in godown No. 21 had his firm known that they contained morphine. Mr. Frank Browne, Government Analyst, testified to examining one bottle which he found to contain morphine hydro-chloride, a salt of morphine.

His Worship ordered the seizure and forfeiture of the morphine, and its delivery to the Opium Farm.

KULANGSU (AMOY) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at the Board Room on the 8th October 1907.

Present:—Messrs. W. H. Wallace (Chairman), C. A. V. Bowra, A. F. Gardiner, Huang Ts'au-chow, W. Kruse, S. Okuyama, W. Wilson, the Health Officer and the Secretary.

1 The minutes of the last meeting are read and confirmed.

2 It is decided to write to the Senior Consul and ask, if no reply has been received from the Taotai at Amoy concerning the license fees for shops selling manufactured opium, that he may be approached again on the subject, as the Council are anxious to make early arrangements for closing the Opium Smoking Shops on Kulangsu.

3 The Superintendent of the Police reports the following cases have been heard in the Mixed Court since the last meeting:—

SUMMONSES.

Allowing cattle to stray 1, Debt, Assault 1, Illegally quarrying stone 1, Allowing pigs to stray 7, Breach of Municipal Regulations 8, Wife desertion 1, Illegally selling a grave 1, Encroaching on land 1.

SUMMARY ARRESTS.

Contempt of Court 1, Illegal burial 1, Theft 3, Assault 13, Committing a nuisance 2, Obtaining goods under false pretences 1.

(Signed) W. H. WALLACE,
Chairman.

By order,
C. BERKELEY MITCHELL,
Secretary.

WALL STREET.

(Daily Press, October 28th.)

We have lately read that the American crops this year have been a comparative failure, and we have also seen it stated that the same crops were excellent, both in quality and quantity. The mischief of it is that one never knows what to believe of the great variety of statements coming from the United States. The American Press, where it is not downright venal, appears to think nothing of publishing every story that its light-hearted and enthusiastic contributors bring in. The contradicting of the story next day does not seem to reflect unfavourably upon anyone concerned, provided the original lie was interesting or sufficiently sensational. With this in mind, we have very little confidence in approaching the subject of the present financial crisis, figuring so prominently in the telegraphic news of the last few days, and which has a good deal of interest for all of us, even if we do not all stand to win or lose greatly by the extraordinary disturbance of the money market which the New York crisis probably involves everywhere. At a loss as we are, by the reasons stated, we yet have small hesitation in assuming that it is no shortage of natural products that has led to this upheaval of Wall Street, and if the assumption be warranted, then it follows that the news is less permanently important than it looks; that there was no real necessity for the panic; and that it may be resolved into a mere struggle of those arch-gamblers against whom President ROOSEVELT has declared war. In that case, we would fain hope that only the financial Titans concerned may be wounded, but of course it always happens that the smaller fry are drawn into the vortex. These colossal gamblers prefer an end like SAMSON'S and will not die alone. The mention of President ROOSEVELT'S attitude of declared hostility towards the Trusts suggests the cynical possibility that this financial crisis may perhaps have been engineered for political purposes. The big operators could probably in some such way not only aim a blow at the present and future policy of the President and his successor but make a profit out of the business at the same time. It is not wildly uncharitable to suggest that the monied interests would go ruthlessly to work to see such a policy nipped in the bud. These rings and combines are not accustomed to consider the fate of the small investor when they are out after a haul, and when, as now, it looks like a stand-up fight in a corner, defending their very existence, they are less likely than ever to be squeamish. If ROCKEFELLER and MORGAN jumped into the stock market to avert a panic, as our London correspondent informs us they did, we are not obliged to believe that their motive was as altruistic and public-spirited as that which prompted the Treasury Department to come to the rescue of the banks. The fact that President ROOSEVELT has felt obliged to deny that he or his policy was responsible for the crisis serves to confirm the suspicion we have ventured to outline. Whether designed or not, it is evident that with the unthinking masses, distrust of such policy must already have been engendered, and we cannot help thinking this a serious pity, and hoping that notwithstanding these and all such difficulties, a firm stand will still be made against the devouring Molochs of finance, who have thriven as ill-weeds always do thrive, until now they are an unmitigated nuisance, a constant menace to the prosperity and well being of the individual, and a danger to the state and its laws.

THE C.I.P.O.

(Daily Press, October 29th.)

The Tientsin post office question is not settled yet, although there has been an announcement of some arrangement between the Tientsin Chamber of Commerce and the Hongkong Government. The question whether the British Post Office at Tientsin is to be continued is now, however, only a part of a much larger question. Apparently it has now to be decided whether all the foreign post offices in the treaty ports are to go or stay. The Yuchwanpu, or Ministry of Posts and Communications, seems to be going to work with considerable energy to demonstrate that the Chinese Imperial Post Office is capable and anxious to cope with all the mail matter within the Empire. From Tientsin comes a report that orders have been issued to forbid Chinese railways conveying any mails that have not been sent through the Chinese Imperial Post Office, with the one exception of foreign naval and military mails. This is a drastic step, indeed, and will probably appear too abrupt and unceremonious to obtain the approval of the Powers. We have no doubt that it will be strongly denounced as a blow deliberately aimed at foreign prestige. It has already been labelled by one contemporary as "an unfriendly act." This view is, or was, not shared by the foreign official of the Customs who prepared an excellent review of the amazing progress of the postal department, which review was copiously quoted in our columns. Unable to lay our hands on the document at the moment, we distinctly remember that the view was therein expressed that the foreign post offices were no longer necessary, and might now be abandoned as a useless anomaly. That was a departmental view, inspired doubtless by a natural pride in the successful evolution of the C. I. P. O., and it would not be difficult to find arguments in support of it. The point at present is, however, to what extent has the foreign control (which has made it what it is) been submerged by the chauvinistic chiefs of the Yuchwanpu? We expressed considerable nervousness a year ago at the detachment of the service from the control of the Customs, especially as there were plain signs then that the Chinese considered they were already in a position to dispense with foreign supervision and advice in this connection. Are we to take it that those fears were well grounded, and that this extraordinary prohibition addressed to the railways is the cloven hoof? As we said before, the Chinese ambition to manage their own affairs is too natural to condemn offhand; but if their "vaulting ambition overlaps itself" to the extent of plainly transgressing treaties and promises, its manifestations will have to be closely scrutinized and sternly repressed where necessary. It cannot be denied that the Chinese Imperial Post has reached a state of efficiency, such as to make the foreign offices *prima facie* unnecessary; and there would be nothing more objectionable in having to put a ten-cent stamp on a London letter forwarded to Shanghai than there is in having to put two-pence-half-penny on a Hongkong letter re-posted in London for Paris. That however, is not the immediate concern. What is feared is that, as we suggested over three years ago, a policy of let-alone now may permit as a sequel a rapid reversion to the old system of corruption, sloth and procrastination, and, of course, inefficiency. At present, as both are conducted, the Chinese Post Office has nothing to learn from (say) the Hongkong Post Office, but would it not deteriorate if given the free hand its Chinese heads seem

to desire? According as we are optimistic or pessimistic vis-à-vis that outlook, we will view the latest development, which, we have no doubt, will already have engaged the earnest attention of the China Association.

CHINESE INTEGRITY.

(Daily Press, October 30th.)

The agreements which have been arrived at between the different Powers with respect to their action in the Far East amount in effect to a policy of "hands off" with regard to China. The chief feature is that Chinese integrity is to be respected—and this, in other words, is equivalent to a declaration that none of the Powers concerned—Great Britain, France, Russia and Japan—will adopt any aggressive policy towards China, but will remain content with the positions which they respectively occupy at the present time. Such an agreement is the natural outcome of the policy which has been for so many years persistently pursued by China of working upon the jealousies of foreign nations and pitting them the one against the other. That some such understanding might be arrived at by foreign nations was long ago perceived as a possibility by those who had watched the progress of events in China, but, as is so often the case, this result has been brought about in a very different manner to any that was anticipated. The establishment of Japan as a first class Power in the East, has completely altered the aspect of matters in that direction. The acquisition of territorial possessions in China is now no longer a matter that can be pursued without the danger of complications in other directions. Any step of the kind which would be likely to interfere with the rights of Japan would be liable to be questioned at once, and certainly would lead to opposition, if persisted in. Under the circumstances, it is not likely that any foreign nation would wish to push its way by conquest in China, and incur risks similar to those which were formerly accepted by Russia and with such disastrous results. Looked at in this light, the game may well appear not worth the candle. Apart however, from these more obvious considerations, there has of late been less desire on the part of any foreign nation to push its way in the direction of territorial acquisition in China, for the reason that the seriousness of the responsibilities, which would so be undertaken, is now far more generally understood than it was formerly. It may be doubted whether any European nation could govern any large portion of China effectively. The Russians with their great linguistic powers and a certain easy adaptability to the ways of other people, might be considered more likely to succeed than any other European nation; but unfortunately Russian administration is tainted with many of the defects of that in China; and unless a marked reform were made in respect to official incorruptibility, it would probably soon sink to much the established level of China, and by degrees slip back largely into Chinese hands. Unless it were possible absolutely to do away with the corruption which attaches to Chinese government, any nation would find the Chinese a very troublesome people to satisfy and it would also have to face the possibility of constant disturbances and outbreaks worked up by secret societies and the like agencies. This has become more and more known of late years, and has made most foreign nations justly chary of incurring such responsibilities. Thus, upon both the grounds indicated, there has been less desire to acquire territorial possessions in China; and the embodiment in the recent

conventions of a declaration that the Powers concerned would respect China's integrity, though valuable as a definite record of their intentions, does not effect any material alteration in the policy which would in all probability have been pursued, had no such conventions been entered into. This consideration is of some importance, as otherwise it might be feared that a general formal declaration by the European nations chiefly concerned, that Chinese integrity would always be respected, might have the effect of encouraging China to put off any honest attempt to come into line with foreign nations under the full assurance that under no circumstances, would she stand in danger of serious reprisals. There is no doubt that she has shown signs of falling into this error already—but it must become apparent that such an agreement as has been made, would not in practice be considered without some qualification; and that circumstances might arise when there would be a concurrence of opinion among the Powers, that the agreement could no longer apply. So long as China can hold things together in some decent form, no nation would be inclined to interfere with her; but there is at the same time the contingency before her that, unless she find means of improving her internal administration, an outbreak might occur which might put an end to the existing order of things, and under such circumstances manifestly foreign nations would not be longer bound by an agreement to preserve the integrity of China as such integrity would no longer exist. As matters now stand the future of China is left in her own hands; and it is for her to find means to supply such government to the country as will satisfy the people at large, prevent outrages against foreigners and preserve friendly relations with European nations. To this task she declares she is willing to devote herself. It remains to be seen whether she will be equal to her professions. It is certainly somewhat curious that China should have thought it necessary to protest against an arrangement that will at least give her another chance, but the ways of Chinese are peculiar.

COLONIAL GOVERNORS.

(Daily Press, 31st October.)

It is to be hoped that the new departmental arrangement, which, it was some time back announced, is to be made at the Colonial Office, placing the self governing Colonies and the Crown Colonies under separate departments, may have the effect of somewhat improving the manner in which the transfer of governors from one Colony to another is decided upon. Hitherto it has been a complete mystery to outsiders how such transfers are regulated. Indeed so far as can be seen, no principle whatever has been gone upon—or at least none in which the interests of the Colonies or the Empire as a whole are the main consideration. Certainly there has hitherto been nothing to make it appear that such appointments have been regulated by any estimate of the special fitness of a given governor for a given post, that he may have acquired through his experience in the governorship which he is relinquishing. The question indeed seems to have been generally settled upon purely departmental considerations on the one side and of personal desires on the other. As regards the latter, of course, nothing can fairly be said. A governor who has for some years withstood the effects of a tropical climate cannot be blamed if, when opportunity offers, he seeks re-appointment in a more temperate sphere.

Indeed there are some instances where, other things being equal, such a consideration may be fairly enough taken into account both by the Colonial Office and by the particular official concerned. These cases, however, are of an exceptional character, and the main point for consideration in all such transfers should clearly be how far the previous experience of the governor transferred will avail him in his new sphere of action.

We have had a very strong instance of how this principle is ignored in the recent transfer of our late esteemed Governor, Sir MATTHEW NATHAN, to Natal. We have been officially informed by Lord ELGIN that "in the public interests it was necessary to invite Sir M. NATHAN to give the benefit of his proved ability in another portion of the Empire." This is admirably expressed, and the utterance is thoroughly in accordance with the sound principle which, as above observed, should rule in such matters. Unfortunately, however, for it, application in the particular case, those who are acquainted with the two places, Natal and Hongkong, must be struck by the peculiarity of the change that has been effected. We make no doubt that Sir MATTHEW NATHAN will prove himself quite able to master the position in Natal, but at the same time, it does seem, to an ordinary person, that a vast amount of the knowledge which he has acquired in the East will be absolutely useless in his new sphere, and indeed may to some extent stand in his way. As a matter of fact, no two colonies could be found more completely differing from each other than Hongkong and Natal. The former is a Crown Colony, where the Governor takes the leading part in all matters and where he naturally looks in the main for guidance from the Colonial Office in all measures of special importance. Natal on the other hand is a self-governing Colony with a very popular element to deal with and where the *vox populi* is the governing force. But the whole nature of the people in the respective Colonies is as different as can be conceived. In Hongkong, so far as the European population is concerned, the bulk of the residents are quite content to take everything that is British as their model. They are rather Englishmen abroad than Colonists, and look only to being in Hongkong for a short period and to returning Home as soon as they can. In Natal there is a strong local Colonial feeling and South African traditions and principles are those which form the basis of public opinions on all questions. The transfer of a governor from the one colony to the other is thus not only to lose the benefit of much which he may have acquired by experience in his former sphere, but also to make it necessary for him to learn a vast amount which can only be acquired by experience in the new colony over which he is placed.

The instance under notice is naturally one which occurs to those in this Colony; but it by no means stands alone, and indeed is only on a footing with a large number of appointments which have been made by the Colonial Office, many of which will occur to our readers. No doubt there may at times be a difficulty in finding a suitable governor for a given colony; and, where there is absolutely no choice, the removal of a governor of ability from the sphere of action with which he has become familiar, may, as is claimed in the present instance, be justified. But in reality such cases are very rare, and they would scarcely arise at all, but for a somewhat too rigid adherence to official and departmental considerations which are after all of very little importance

as compared with the necessity for securing the most suitable man for a given place; and of making the fullest use of the special knowledge, which has been acquired, and can only be acquired, by actual experience.

PROPOSED CHINESE FETE AT HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, November 1st.)

Mr. Ho KONG-TONG, who is actively interesting himself in the promotion of the monstrous Chinese procession for the middle of December has approached us with regard to the reference that appeared in our issue of yesterday. He thinks the fears of our Chinese correspondent were ridiculously exaggerated. With regard to the introduction of infectious disease by the anticipated enormous influx of visitors, he points out that the period chosen for the fête is a safe one, when the cold weather militates against the aggressive microbe; and he informs us that on this point the medical officers of the Colony are unanimous in their repudiation of any cause for such alarm as was shown by the correspondent first quoted. The other fears expressed were equally groundless, while there are numerous arguments in favour of the scheme. The fear of an increase of crime need not be seriously considered, since the police would naturally take measures to cope with the temporary increase of population, and exercise more than usual vigilance. It has not been proved that the Macao authorities encountered any such difficulty at their recent fête, which on the other hand has done a great deal of good to the tradesmen of the neighbouring colony. As to the stallholders in the markets taking advantage of the greater demand for foodstuffs, and increasing their prices as suggested by our Chinese correspondent, we are assured that this would not be permitted. The market people understand that they would in any case share in the boom and benefits expected by all other tradesmen, and it is further understood that they have been approached, and are quite willing to make arrangements to cater for the swollen demand without going to the length imagined by the nervous critic. On the other hand, we are asked to contemplate the immediate results of a hundred thousand visitors from the interior staying in the locality for a week. A simple process of arithmetic will show what a very large sum of money should be brought to the Colony and left here. Each person must spend something, and that something, however small, when multiplied by the number of visitors, presents itself in the aggregate as an inducement to the tradesmen of Hongkong to give their hearty support to the scheme. That this is the view taken by ninety-five per cent of the persons approached on the matter is a statement with which Mr. Ho KONG-TONG by no means taxed our credulity; and we were less surprised than gratified to learn from him that already fifteen thousand dollars have been contributed or promised towards the initial cost of promotion, all of it by tradesmen, who have thus shown their faith in the to them benevolent results of such a fête. Beyond that again, it must be admitted that Hongkong, in its present commercial depression, would be no worse for some such fillip to revive it. There are two hundred and seventy houses empty in Hongkong just now, and the leading Chinese citizens hold the belief that out of the big crowd of Chinese who would thus be attracted to the Colony, there would be many who would be so impressed by the obvious advantages of residence here that they would there and then decide to throw

in their lot with us, and become permanent residents. As a further inducement of public sympathy and support, it is suggested that out of the profits of the fête the local charities would be sure to receive their share. If the Government accept this view, and it is understood that more than a few members of it have signified sympathy and approval, there should be no obstacle placed in the way of the promoters, to whom we have little doubt the majority of citizens will be wishing success.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Oct. 29th at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (president) presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, C.M.G., (Vice-President), Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin (Registrar-General), Dr. F. Clark, Medical Officer of Health, Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Captain Lyons, Captain-Superintendent of Police, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. H. Humphreys, Mr. Lau Chu-pak and Mr. G. A. Woodcock, secretary.

WATER TANK REGULATIONS.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL, in terms of notice moved "That the Government be requested to make rules under the water works ordinance to regulate the placing of water tanks in back yards." In doing so, he said—For the last few months we had a great many applications for permission to place water tanks in back yards and we have always dealt with them under the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, treating them simply as encroachments upon the space provided by the Ordinance. At the last meeting the Director of Works informed us that it was proposed to put these tanks under the Water Ordinance. Until we know the intention of the Government it is simply a waste of time for us to consider any more of those applications. The Chinese take a great interest in this question of prohibition of water tanks and, I think, we are justified in asking the Government to make regulations as soon as possible and publish them for general information.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded. He said—I take it that the mover is in favour of allowing these tanks to remain under certain conditions. Personally I think the tanks should be erected, and knowing as I do what residents, Chinese and European alike, have suffered in the past from a total want of water it must be realised that tanks or vessels for storing water will become indispensable, as not every individual can afford to wait at a tap, even when the supply is ample, for water for cooking and cleansing purposes. In shops and factories these tanks have been in existence for a good many years and there has not been a single instance of water stored in tanks having become contaminated or a breeding place for mosquitoes. They do not take up such space as to cause an obstruction, and instead of being a means of wasting water they save water.

Mr. A. SHELTON HOOPER—I have much pleasure in supporting the remarks of the mover and the seconder. I think that the wholesale abolition of tanks would be fatal. Of course this resolution does not deal with the doing away of tanks but it deals with taking away the water which would feed the tanks. I think this particular question should be dealt with as the clever Colonial Secretary suggested in his remarks when criticising the recommendations of the Sanitary Commission with regard to cubicles and therefore I crave permission to refer to the advice which he gives there and would ask you to apply it to this question of tanks. (Reads.) If we deal reasonably and intelligently with each case there would be no need for the water authority to make any regulations. I do not think it would be wise to suggest that the water authority should exercise his discretion and cut off the water. You will notice that the Colonial Secretary suggests that the members of the Board should inspect every case. That is a big task but it is a very good thing, and it would be still better if the Executive Council before

overriding a resolution of this Board recommending exemption did the same thing and judged each case on its merits after having made an inspection of the place.

The resolution was carried.

THE WATER TANK QUESTION.

A reply stating that the Governor-in-Council had not approved of the recommendations of the Sanitary Board respecting the water tank in the yard at 88 Connaught Road West was read.

Mr. A. SHELTON HOOPER minuted—I hope it was pointed out to H. E. the Governor too great utility of the water in the tank in the case of fire and for cleansing purposes during the intermittent supply.

THE BUILDING ORDINANCE.

Some time ago Messrs. Palmer and Turner applied to the Board for a modification of the provisions of section 188 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance to allow of certain latrines being erected on the roofs of certain houses in Kow Shing Street. The board decided to recommend that the Governor-in-Council grant the application and on September 19 a letter to this effect was sent to the Governor-in-Council, but a reply has now been received from the Colonial Secretary to the effect that the Governor-in-Council did not approve of the recommendations.

Mr. A. SHELTON HOOPER minuted—I recommend that this matter be referred back to the Governor-in-Council for reconsideration. The board were unanimous in recommending the application and the Medical Officer of Health also recommended it.

Mr. FUNG WA CHEUN—I don't see any harm in referring back this matter to the Governor for a reason, or for reconsideration.

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN—It is no good referring the matter back unless we can throw new light on it or supply additional information.

Referred to the Director of Public Works for further information.

LIMEWASHING AND CLEANSING.

The reply from the Government with respect to the culling of tenders for cleansing and limewashing work, was laid on the table. The letter stated that the Government had no objections to tenders being invited and instructions were issued accordingly.

Mr. A. SHELTON HOOPER minuted—As it will not be compulsory for the owner to allow Government contractor to do the work I fail to see any objection to the Government entering into the proposed contract. If the price per floor is higher than what the owner can get the work done for, the owner will naturally have the work done himself. The specification of the proposed limewash must be discussed.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK—After all, the question of having the limewashing of the Chinese tenement houses done by contract at the expense of the owners and under the direct control of the Sanitary Department is not so easy a task to tackle as it at first appeared to be. The price now paid by owners varies from 75 cents to \$1.50 per floor and the contractors undertake to get the work passed by the Sanitary Inspectors, failing which they have to do it over again without extra pay. It stands therefore to reason that as the owners themselves can get the work done at such a cheap rate there is very little chance of their voluntarily coming forward to ask the Government contractor to do it; and also if the margin of profit for the Government contractors is great there is the chance of the owners being compelled to transfer their favours to him, there being no difficulty for representing that the work done by the private contractor is not satisfactory. This has been amply proved by the evidence given before the Public Health Commission. The floors are not of a uniform size and if the tender price exceeds \$1.50 per floor irrespective of size the scheme would fall through as the owners would do the work themselves and in doing so friction would arise. At the same time however it would not be equitable to deprive the owners of their right to employ their own men to limewash their own houses. I am of opinion, however, that the success or failure of the scheme hinges on what price the Government contractor will charge to do the work. I do not offer these remarks in opposition to the scheme, but I wish it to be borne in mind that the evil in question should not be lost sight

of and that the conditions of the contract should be so drawn up as to prevent possible friction. Until the scheme has been given a fair trial the contract should not be made a long one.

The PRESIDENT.—When this question was last considered the Board came to the decision that if limewashing was done by contract then once a year would be sufficient. That was in 1903. At that time the Government were not willing that this work be done by contract but now we have received a reply that they are willing that tenders should be called for. The first thing we should decide is whether the work should be done yearly or twice a year. I think if it is done yearly it ought to be done by contract. If it is not done by contract it ought to be done as before—twice a year. If it is done by contract the work will be done more effectively. We intend to insist that a certain percentage of lime be in the limewash and if that is done it will be useful as disinfectant. As used at present by Chinese contractors it is practically carbonate of lime, no quick lime at all.

Mr. A. SHELTON HOOPER moved that the limewashing be carried out once a year.

This was seconded by Mr. LAU CHU PAK, and carried. The Board afterwards considered the terms of the tenders.

A CHINESE NEWSPAPER JUBILEE.

On Nov. 1st the *Chung Ngai San Po* (Chinese Daily Press) celebrates the Jubilee of its foundation, and by way of specially marking the occasion it is printed on scarlet paper, the paper which is customarily used for the first issue after the Chinese New Year holidays. The *Chung Ngai San Po* was, we believe, the first Chinese newspaper published, if we disregard the *Peking Gazette* and the Provincial Court Circulars, which were newspapers only in the sense that the *Government Gazette* is a newspaper. Nothing but official decrees and other Court news found its way into "the oldest newspaper in the world," but according to the announcement which heralded the birth of the *Chung Ngai San Po* the intention of the founders was from the start that it should contain "suitable information, besides advertisements, that will cause it to be valuable to the Chinese, and a medium of communicating interesting intelligence to them." In those days when the relations between Chinese and foreigners were not so peaceful and satisfactory in the Colony as they have happily long since become, it can readily be conceived that a well conducted Chinese newspaper was able to play a very useful part in removing misunderstandings and educating its readers to a more just appreciation of the peaceful and friendly intentions of the "Fankwei." Throughout its career the *Chung Ngai San Po* has been governed by the same high sense of public duty. While it has never hesitated to criticise the measures of the Colonial Government affecting the Chinese community, its criticisms have generally been of a helpful character and have often received the consideration they merited. Chinese newspapers as a rule do not enjoy a long lease of life, and the *Chung Ngai San Po* may therefore well congratulate itself upon its longevity. Its long life and extensive circulation testify that its news service and general policy are widely appreciated and approved, and this is the more noteworthy when the fact is mentioned that it pronouncedly dissociates itself from the Chinese political propaganda in the Colony which has recently formed the excuse for an Ordinance dealing with seditious publications.

A Peking letter states that the reactionaries have succeeded in almost convincing their Majesties to veto any suggestion to engage foreign advisers for the proposed reforms in the national currency.

Telegraphic instructions have been received from Peking to prohibit all but military foreign mails from being carried on Chinese railways, unless they are sent through the Chinese Post Office. This order emanates from the Ministry of Posts and Communications. Mr. Chou, Director of the Imperial Northern Railway, has gone to Peking in connexion with the matter. The outgoing mails of the International Post Office have been suspended.

ITALIAN CONVENT PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

The annual distribution of prizes at the Italian Convent took place on October 29th, when His Excellency Sir Frederick Lugard, who was accompanied by Lady Lugard, presided. It was a wet, miserable day, and the weather must have damped the hopes of the good sisters as to the success of the gathering. Notwithstanding the heavy downpour which occurred about the opening hour, however, there was a large attendance which included the Rt. Rev. Bishop Pozzoni, Bishop Clemente of Fukien, Consul-General Romano, Chevalier Volpicelli, Mr. Brackenbury, Captain Ogle, A.D.C., Rev. Brother Sylvester, Rev. Father pads, and Mrs. F. H. May. His Excellency and Lady Lugard were met at the Convent entrance by the Mother Superior and the sisters, and were conducted through lines of school children to a prettily decorated hall, the stage in which was adorned with bouquets and pot plants, while red, white and blue rosettes and ribbons, large palm leaves and bunches of flowers adorned the walls. At the appointed hour a carefully arranged musical programme was proceeded with, and after the rendering of a few items.

Mr. J. P. Braga expressed regret that Father de Maria, the manager of the Convent Schools, was unable to attend owing to illness. The Rev. Father, however, wished to place on record his thanks to His Excellency and Lady Lugard for their kindness in being present. Mr. Braga then read the report, which was as follows:—

Your Excellencies, My Lord Bishop, Ladies and Gentlemen—Our annual prize-giving day has been delayed beyond the midsummer holiday this year. This delay has not been without its advantage; for by the delay we can claim the honour of being privileged with the distinction of the presence of Your Excellencies here this afternoon and as it also happens that this is the first occasion Your Excellency has been approached and been graciously pleased to consent to preside at a school prize-giving since your arrival in the Colony. I have to thank you on behalf of the management and of the Italian Convent Schools for this singular honour. There are two divisions of the Convent Schools—the English and the Chinese. For the scholastic year ended the 3th June last the average attendance of the English school was 206.07 and that of the Chinese 75. Besides those two divisions which are conducted under the Government Grant-in-Aid Code, there are the industrial classes. These latter are attended entirely by the orphans, viz., 66 Portuguese and 145 Chinese girls. The Infant Classes not embraced within the classification of the Grant-in-Aid Schools are attended by fifty children all Chinese. It is hoped that this latter class may be made to conform with the requirements of the syllabus provided under the Grant Scheme. The Inspector of Schools conducted the annual examinations of the English and Chinese divisions of the School. The English school is reported as being "again thoroughly efficient." In the examination on Hygiene, a subject in which your Excellency's predecessor evinced much personal interest and for which Sir Matthew Nathan awarded special prizes, the Inspector reported as follows: "Very good." In the elementary course the team of this school took the second place. Good marks were also obtained in the advanced course. It is with regret that I have to state that Sister Me'ania, who taught the subject with so much efficiency and was honoured by our late Governor with a special souvenir for her zeal, died in July last. As to the other subjects the remarks and suggestions of Mr. Wolfe, as embodied in his report, have been carefully noted. The teaching staff will devote attention towards improvement in those subjects in which upon examination, certain standards appeared to have been weak. Standard VII has been disappointing in composition and history, and, realising the practical benefits a knowledge of these special subjects would be to the pupils, an endeavour will be made to secure a higher standard of efficiency in future examinations. Important as the literary education of the girls is recognised to be, another branch of practical instruction merits, and has consistently received, the careful attention of the Sisters of the Convent. I

allude to the industrial section of the School with especial reference to the needlework department. The products of the labours of the orphan girls were recently exhibited at the annual bazaar so kindly opened by Lady Lugard. By this especial branch of the schools not only are the children benefited by profitable industrial employment, but they are thereby initiated into a branch of art which contributes in a very material manner to the maintenance of the hundreds of children brought up in moral, physical, and religious training within the Orphanage School under the self-sacrificing charge of the Sisters, thus making this institution in a manner partially self-supporting. It is one of the aims of the management of the schools that the moral and religious features of their instruction should enter, proportionately to their importance, into the school curriculum. It is my pleasant duty to report that health of the scholars has been good throughout last year. Physical instruction is taught and the girls take to the drills with much interest and pleasure. I have, in conclusion to thank your Excellencies, Mgr. Pozzoni, ladies and gentlemen, for your presence here this afternoon and also to the donors of the prizes. Some friends have conceived the idea of presenting small money prizes to the orphans with the object of encouraging thrift. The recipients of these will, I trust, appreciate the kindly wishes of their generous benefactors, among whom must be noted Messrs. Sin Tak Fan, Ho Tung, Ho Fook, P. K. Kwok and Yew. I will now ask your Excellency to present the prizes.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Ladies and gentlemen, before I present the prizes I would like to say one or two words. It affords my wife, Lady Lugard, and myself the very greatest pleasure to be here this afternoon, and to testify by our presence the profound interest that we feel in the noble and self-sacrificing work which the ladies of this convent are carrying on. Where all is so admirable, so essential and so good—thanks to those who are devoting their lives to the work—it would be invidious for me to compare the utility of one section with another. We have the testimony, the expert testimony, of the Inspector of Schools as to the success which has been achieved in the educational department which comes under the grant in aid, and I am sure that our Chinese friends will testify to the great good which is being done by the Infant Classes, who are not yet under that care. But the section which appeals to me personally most, and in which I confess I have the greatest interest, is the industrial section in which the orphan girls are taught a means of livelihood which may be useful to them hereafter, and by which they are able to help forward, and contribute towards the maintenance of the school in which they are being cared for. I believe, ladies and gentlemen, very much in self-help and self-reliance, and I think that a system of education and daily surrounding in which those qualities are inculcated upon every boy and girl, is the greatest boon that can be bestowed upon a child. My predecessor, as the manager of the school has just reminded us, gave a prize for hygiene, and I am very glad to hear that it has been effectual in promoting the study of that most important branch of education. I shall be glad if the Lady Superior of the Convent concurs in my suggestion to present a memento to the Convent upon which shall be engraved each year the name of the pupil who has obtained the highest mark, month by month, for usefulness, integrity and for self-reliance. I said just now that I believed the surroundings and the education which produced these qualities are the greatest boon that can be conferred upon a child. I think that if they recognise that falsehood and dishonesty are not merely detestable because they involve punishment, but that they are in themselves mean and below the standard of life they have adopted, if they learn to realise that unselfishness and self-sacrifice are not merely good because they are praised, but that they bring to those who pursue them higher reward and greater satisfaction than any external praise, and that their reward is in the love of all those who surround them, they will for the rest of their lives become better in whatever surroundings they may be placed. In addition

to the souvenir which I would like to present to the Convent and which would permanently remain in it, and on which the name of the successful student would be engraved each year, I propose to present a small souvenir to be given to the successful student at the half yearly midsummer distribution of prizes (applause).

The GOVERNOR then presented the following prizes:—

INFANT CLASS—1st Division:—1, Thelme Remedios, 1st for good conduct, politeness, reading, dictation and sums, 2nd for writing and mental arithmetic; 2 Olga Carvalho, 1st for writing, mental arithmetic and sums; 3, Lizzie Comar, 1st for object lesson, dictation and regular attendance, 3rd for reading, writing and application; 4, Lizzie Wilkinson, 1st for recitation and drill, 3rd for writing and sums; 5, Maria Theresa Pereira, 1st for dictation, 2nd for conduct, application and sums; 6, Angelita Puerta, 2nd for recitation, 3rd for reading, dictation and writing; 7, Helen Clarke, 2nd for reading, dictation, recitation and sums. 2nd Division:—1, Anna Ogilvie, 1st for reading, dictation, object lesson and sum; 2, Elsa Carvalho, 2nd for reading, dictation and sums; 3, Willie Wilkinson, 3rd for reading, dictation and sums. 3rd. Division:—Idalia Maria da Luz, 1st for reading, dictation and writing.

I. STANDARD:—1, Soline Hung, 1st for conduct, application, geography, dictation and needlework, 2nd for religious instruction, grammar, reading and arithmetic, 3rd for recitation and object lesson; 2, Mercedes Veloso, 1st for religious instruction, composition and object lesson, 2nd for dictation and grammar, 3rd for reading and recitation; 3, Mary Leong, 1st for recitation and order, 2nd for arithmetic, geography and needlework; 4, Alice Kwok, 1st for conduct, application, geography and needlework, 2nd for object lesson; 5, Emiliana Abarasturi, 1st for writing and arithmetic, 2nd for composition, dictation and object lesson, 3rd for religious instruction and grammar; 6, Alda Basto, 2nd for dictation, 3rd for reading, arithmetic and needlework.

II. STANDARD:—1, Carlotta Ribeiro, 1st for composition, grammar, dictation, object lesson and arithmetic, 3rd for reading and geography; 2, Mabel Lawrence, 1st for religious instruction, 2nd for grammar and object lesson, 3rd for application, dictation, writing and order; 3, Maria Baptista, 1st for writing and order, 2nd for conduct and arithmetic, 3rd for politeness; 4, Consuelo Elizaga, 1st for reading and recitation, 2nd for religious instruction, 3rd for composition and geography; 5, Emma Ai, 2nd for reading and writing, 3rd for grammar and composition; 6, Angelina Carvalho, 2nd for religious instruction and arithmetic, 4th for reading, composition, dictation and object lesson; 7, Angela Hyndman, 2nd for recitation, 3rd for geography and object lesson; 8, Branca Hyndman, 3rd for recitation and object lesson, 4th for composition and politeness.

III. STANDARD:—1, Celeste Remedios, 1st for geography, arithmetic, dictation and order, 2nd for reading and grammar, 3rd for religious instruction and history; 2, Milagros Veloso, 1st for application, grammar and object lesson, 2nd for religious instruction and recitation, 3rd for composition history and arithmetic; 3, Jenny Lawrence, 1st for reading, recitation and writing, 2nd for composition and dictation; 4, Cissy Gardner, 1st for religious instruction and arithmetic, 2nd for object lesson; 5, Kathleen Krugloff, 1st for composition, 2nd for history, 3rd for reading and recitation; 6, Alicia Carvalho, 1st for history, 2nd for arithmetic, 3rd for grammar and geography; 7, Beckie Ai, 2nd for geography, 3rd for dictation.

IV. STANDARD:—1, Lily Reach, 1st for reading, hygiene, history, composition and geography, 3rd for dictation; 2, May MacMallar, 1st for writing, composition, history and geography, 2nd for hygiene and recitation; 3, Aurora Fanlo, 1st for conduct, application, politeness and needlework, 2nd for religious instruction, geography and object lesson; 4, Susan Mugford, 1st for dictation and object lesson, 2nd for composition, history and mental arithmetic, 3rd for hygiene; 5, Casilda Carvalho, 1st for recitation and politeness, 2nd for reading, dictation and arithmetic, 3rd for history and composition; 6, Robertina Baptista, 1st for arithmetic and religious instruction, 2nd for grammar, writing

and needlework, 3rd for geography and object lesson.

V. STANDARD:—1, Dolores Hyndman, 1st for religious instruction, history, and arithmetic, 2nd for geography, 3rd for hygiene and dictation; 2, Alice Brandt, 1st for composition, hygiene and geography, 2nd for dictation, 3rd for religious instruction, grammar and history; 3, Adele Klingemann, 1st for dictation, reading and recitation, 2nd for history, 3rd for grammar and geography; 4, Elvira Felices, 2nd for hygiene and composition, 3rd for reading, recitation and dictation; 5, Kate Raymond, 2nd for reading, grammar, recitation and regular attendance.

VI. STANDARD:—1, Maria E. Gutierrez, 1st for arithmetic, 2nd for writing, 3rd for geography; 2, Mary White, 1st for dictation and writing, 2nd for history; 3, Carmelita Cardner, 1st for history, 2nd for arithmetic and writing.

VII. STANDARD:—1, Mary Abwee, 1st for music, history, grammar, geography and application, 2nd for religious instruction, composition, arithmetic and hygiene; 2, Jessie Pestonjee, 1st for hygiene, history, geography, conduct and politeness; 2nd for grammar and arithmetic; 3, Cissy Kennedy, 1st for religious instruction, history, arithmetic and geography, 2nd for grammar, hygiene, dictation, object lesson and politeness, 3rd for composition and conduct.

SPECIAL CLASS:—Maria Gomes Silva, 1st for conduct, hygiene and arithmetic.

Prizes for NEEDLE WORKS:—Regina Velarte, 1st for needlework, presented by Mr. Sin-Tak-fan, \$10; Victoria Manso, 1st for embroidery, presented by Mr. Sin-Tak-fan, \$10; Catherina Peres, 1st for drawn work presented by Mr. Kwok, \$10; A-Lan-fan, 1st for needlework, presented by Mr. Ho-Tong, \$10; A-Chee-Chiu, 1st for embroidery, presented by Mr. Ho-Tung, \$10; Mei-Kwai-cheng, 1st for lace work, presented by Mr. Yew, \$7; Yut-Ho, 2nd for needlework, presented by Mr. Sin-Tak-fan, \$5; A-Ho-tam, 2nd for embroidery, presented by Mr. Ho-Fook, \$5; A-Kew-cheng, 2nd for lace work, presented by Mr. Yew, \$5.

The musical programme arranged was then concluded, the proceedings ending with the singing of the National Anthem. Before departing most of the visitors partook of the hospitality of the Convent Sisters.

"CHINA PROVIDENTS."

At an Extraordinary General Meeting of the China Provident Loan and Mortgage Co., Ltd. held on Saturday the 26th instant at 11 a.m., the following resolution was passed:—

That the General Managers be, and they hereby are, authorised to dispose of the 100,000 shares of and in the capital of the Company now remaining undisposed of or any part thereof in payment or part payment for assets to be hereafter acquired by the Company through the General Managers at such time and on such terms and conditions as the General Managers may, with the consent of the Consulting Committee, deem expedient, to the intent that the said shares or such portion thereof as shall be disposed of shall be held by the Vendors of the assets so to be acquired by the Company as aforesaid in satisfaction or part satisfaction for such assets, and to the further intent that under no circumstances shall the present shareholders of the Company or their Transferees be or become in any way liable to make any contribution to the Company in respect of the said 100,000 shares unless with the consent of the shareholders of the Company in General Meeting hereafter had and obtained."

The foregoing information is all we have been able to get from the agents, Messrs. Shewan Tomes and Co. It is known, however, that the meeting, held in camera, was a result of considerable controversy. Enquiries in other well-informed sources elicit merely the assurance that "the trouble is over; the affair settled."

The Chinese Ministry of Posts and Communications is now considering ways and means to undertake the whole distribution of mails, both local and foreign, throughout the Empire, including taking over the work now being performed by the post office branches of the different treaty Powers.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 28th October.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WIRE (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

ALLEGED MANSLAUGHTER.

Mamet Ullah, Barker Khan and Peer Bux were arraigned on the charge of manslaughter. Prisoners pleaded not guilty, and the following jury was empanelled:—C. W. Longuet, T. Grimshaw, A. G. Coppin, C. E. Libeaud, A. M. McDougall, J. Blake and R. Innes.

The Attorney-General, instructed by Mr. G. E. Morrell, from the Crown Solicitor's Office, prosecuted, Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., who was instructed by Mr. R. D. Atkinson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon), being retained for the defence.

The case for the prosecution having been closed on Friday,

Peer Bux the third defendant, went into the box and gave his version of the occurrence. On the day in question he saw a crowd of Chinese fighting with his two servants. He called to them to return and when they entered the house the Chinese threw stones breaking several windows. This attack was maintained for about three quarters of an hour, by which time two Indian police returning from duty appeared on the scene. Some time later the police came and arrested his two servants. Next day he went to the Police Court to see what was being done to his men, and he himself was arrested. His ankles were swollen. Witness took off his socks to show the jury his ankles.

Cross-examined—There had not been any unpleasantness between himself and the Chinese over the well. He had however told the Chinese they were not to dip a dirty vessel into the water. He did not notice the deceased man among the crowd of Chinese, neither did he make any remark about the Chinese defiling the water. He denied having taken the vessel from the Chinese and declared that the allegations against him were made up.

The first prisoner who was sworn in Afghan, said that he was employed by Peer Bux. The dispute arose because a Chinaman tried to put a dirty tub into the well. The second defendant told the Chinaman not to use his dirty bucket, but to use the tin which was suspended near the well. The Chinaman instead made an abusive remark and struck the defendant with his bamboo. The latter wrested the bamboo from the Chinaman and struck him. Then the Chinaman ran away but returned accompanied by a crowd who set upon them.

The second defendant deposed that the deceased first struck him. He retaliated, striking his assailant on the back with a bamboo, and when the crowd came and attacked them witness fought with them. He struck several men and was hit himself several times.

Cross-examined—The man had to be carried away as a result of the blow witness gave him. Witness took the blame for all that happened that day.

An Indian constable testified to seeing a crowd outside Peer Bux's house on the day in question.

Counsel having addressed the jury, the latter retired and after a short absence returned with a verdict of guilty against the first two and not guilty against the third, who was discharged. The others were each sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.

RAIL ESTREATED.

Yeung Chik Sang who was charged with falsifying trade marks applied to tea chests, failed to surrender to his bail, and Sir Henry Berkeley, who appeared to prosecute, said that his Lordship had already estreated the bail of this man. Sir Henry suggested that the case be remanded till next sessions, and should the prisoner be apprehended, he would have to await his trial in prison.

His Lordship said the case would stand adjourned until next sessions.

Sir Henry applied for the costs of the prosecution, and his Lordship said he would grant that. But he would not agree to counsel's request that the estreated bail be applied to the payment of costs and ordered the tea to be

detained. He advised counsel to make application to the Treasury for the costs of the prosecution.

Tuesday, 29th October.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

LI PAK AGAIN.

A number of actions were heard against the Lik Loong Wo Kee bank, of which it will be remembered the Puisne Judge held that Li Pak was a partner. Mr. E. J. Grist, acting for the following plaintiffs who each claimed for \$1,000, Man Hop Yuen Sang Ki and the Chen Tung Yen, obtained judgment in each case, the claims being for money deposited with the bank. Mr. F. C. Master, who had formerly obtained judgment against Li Pak in four similar actions, now asked for formal judgment against the bank, and the cases having been proved judgment was entered accordingly. Mr. d'Almada e Castro also obtained judgment on behalf of Kom Kwan Hing for \$1,000.

Wednesday, October 30th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

ABSENT WITNESSES.

In the action Wong Sam Koo against Tsui Ming trading as the Hing Lee Hop Kee for \$750 and costs there arose an issue of garnishee against Ng Wah, which was set down for hearing. Mr. C. F. Dixon, of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings, represented the plaintiff, and Mr. O. D. Thomson acted for Ng Wah.

Mr. Dixon asked for an adjournment on the ground that he was unable to find his witnesses. He had two witnesses, one being the wife of Tsui Ming, but he understood they had both been "got at" by Ng Wah and he could not therefore get hold of them. He had issued a subpoena for the attendance of Tsui Ming's wife but the Court officials as well had been unable to find her. If the adjournment were granted he was prepared to pay the costs for Mr. Thomson's attendance.

Mr. Thomson—Unless my friend is prepared to prove by evidence that his clients' witnesses have been prevented from attending through my client he has no right to make the allegation. It is a very common allegation for the Chinese to make if they cannot get their witnesses.

Mr. Dixon—I think I can prove it.

Mr. Thomson—The garnishee order is dated October 10, three weeks ago, so that my friend has had plenty of time to get his witnesses.

Mr. Dixon—I had them in my office but on the eve of the trial they have disappeared. I don't make any allegations against my friend, but we say the entire transaction was fraudulent. Tsui Ming became very seriously involved some time ago, when he had a contract for Messrs. Fenwick and Company. It was not completed.

Mr. Dixon—It was arranged that Tsui Ming should run away and that the work be transferred to Ng Wah. Tsui Ming's wife was present when the conversation took place. An assignment was made and the money was handed over, but on leaving Mr. Holmes' office the money was returned.

Mr. Thomson—The consideration for the assignment was \$5000, and \$1100 were handed over.

His Honour—You say the whole thing was fraudulent?

Mr. Dixon—Yes. The matter is the subject of an Original Jurisdiction action.

Mr. Thomson stated that the defence set up by Messrs. Fenwick and Company was the penalties due under the contract, but that had nothing to do with the question of adjournment. His friend had no reason for adjourning the case.

His Honour—Of course you will get your costs.

Mr. Dixon—If I don't have the witnesses by next week I shall have to abandon this issue.

Mr. Thomson—I understand Tsui Ming's wife is in Court.

Mr. Dixon—I don't see her.

Mr. Thomson—Behind the pillar.

His Honour—Is that the lady?

Mr. Dixon—Yes, my Lord. I have another witness who was present at Mr. Holmes' office when this assignment took place. He can state that this money was paid and afterwards returned.

His Honour—It doesn't look as if she were being kept out of the way.

The case was adjourned.

Thursday, 31st October.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING
PUISNE JUDGE)

AN INFANT'S DISABILITY.

Chung Wa Cheung sued Hung Tin Po for \$384.56 principal and interest due on a promissory note. Mr. W. J. Daniel of Messrs. Johnson Stokes and Master represented the plaintiff and Mr. d'Almada e Castro appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Daniel stated that the plaintiff advanced the sum of \$200 upon a promissory note dated 5th July, 1901. It was a Chinese promissory note and agreed that the sum of \$200 be repaid any time upon demand and also agreed to pay interest thereon. Plaintiff was now suing for the sum of \$200 and the interest thereon \$184.56, in all \$384.56. On the face of it he admitted that the promissory note was statute barred. At the time the plaintiff advanced the money he was about 16 years of age, and now he was just over 21 according to the English computation. Therefore the disability of infancy had been removed within the last six or eight months and the Statute of Limitations did not run against his client. If the Statute did run against an infant it was conceivable that a child of four or five years might have a wrong done him and he would be statute barred at the age of seven. That was a most absurd proposition. An infant was never under the disability of suing. He was under a restricted ability. He could always bring an action by his next friend. He submitted that the Statute of Limitations did not run against his client because disability only ceased six months ago.

Plaintiff gave evidence as to lending the money to defendant and to receiving \$5 interest in July.

Mr. d'Almada cross-examined with a view to elicit that the money was lent by plaintiff's mother.

Defendant gave evidence that he borrowed the money from plaintiff's mother, who was his sister, and at her request the promissory note was made out in the name of her son, the plaintiff. Defendant had never paid any money to the plaintiff but to his mother, to whom he had returned \$100 of the principal. His sister did return the promissory note because she said she had lost it. He made out another.

Mr. d'Almada argued that the statute of limitations applied. No payment having been made for six years plaintiff was barred from suing. Plaintiff sued for the whole amount but having admitted the receipt of a payment from the defendant he was precluded from obtaining judgment on the statement of claim filed.

Mr. Daniel pointed out that defendant having admitted payment kept the right of action alive.

His Honour reserved his decision, and adjourned the case sine die.

THE LOST TROUSERS.

The case in which F. Blunck sued the Connaught Hotel for \$12 for the recovery of a pair of trousers lost by plaintiff in the hotel was called. Mr. P. M. Hodgson now appeared for the plaintiff, while Mr. R. A. Harding acted for the defendants.

Plaintiff repeated the evidence given at the former hearing, stating that on June 23rd he sent to wash among other things a pair of pongee silk trousers, which were not returned. In their place was a pair which did not belong to him. The room boy told him there was a hotel washerman.

Cross-examined—He did not know whether the hotel had a laundry or not. The boy said he would recommend the hotel laundryman.

For the defence Ho man yuk, manager of the Connaught Hotel, said that the hotel did not do laundry work. A list of hotel rules, in which it was stated that the hotel did not undertake guest's washing, was exhibited in every room in the hotel.

His Honour gave judgment for defendant with costs.

IN BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. A. G. WISE
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

RECEIVING ORDER GRANTED.

Mr. Morrell, acting for Mr. P. W. Goldring, applied for a receiving order in the case of the Kwong Yuen Cheung. He stated that the liabilities amounted \$300,000 and the assets to \$50,000, having been reduced from \$100,000. The order was granted.

ADJUDICATION.

Mr. J. H. Gardiner applied for the adjudication of Kwok Pui Chi as bankrupt and the appointment of Mr. C. F. Dixon as official trustee, which was granted.

EXAMINATION CLOSED.

Mr. Morrell applied that the E Yuen firm be adjudicated bankrupt. His Lordship consented, and the public examination was closed.

HOTEL KEEPER'S FAILURE.

An Ka Po, of the Occidental and Baltimore Hotels, was adjudicated bankrupt and the public examination closed. A meeting of creditors had been held but no resolution had been passed.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

Mr. Grist applied that the bankruptcy proceedings in the case of Li Kwan Hing be annulled. Two reports were filed, in the last of which there was only one material point—that the 30 per cent. had been paid.

His Lordship—The creditors have received this money? One of the objections was that there was no security for the money and the hearing was adjourned.

Mr. Kemp—I am satisfied that the money has either been paid or the creditors have agreed to make further claims.

Mr. Grist—It is really in accordance with the wishes of the creditors that the bankruptcy should be annulled.

The order was made.

YARN DEALER'S FAILURE.

Ling Yam Luk came up for his public examination. In reply to the Official Receiver he said he was the only surviving partner of Hung Kee and Sun Yuen firms. The former dealt in yarn and originally consisted of seven partners and the latter was an opium firm of nine partners, the partners in the Hung Sung Yuen being partners in the Hung Kee. None of the sons of the former partners took any share in the business. The failure was due to the fact that customers of the Hung Kee who had contracted to take certain quantities of yarn failed to do so, and the collapse involved the downfall of the Sun Yuen, which stood security for the Hung Kee. The Sun Yuen was a firm of sixty years' standing and the Hung Kee was twenty-four years old. The liabilities were \$16,000 and the assets \$6,500.

The examination was closed.

A FALSE TRADE DESCRIPTION.

Wong Sing-cho, master of the Yat Sing Loong piece goods shop, No. 6, Mercer Street, and Chi Chuk, the accountant appeared before Mr. C. D. Melbourne at the Police Court on Oct. 30th on summons, to answer charges of exposing for sale and having in their possession ten pieces of turkey red cotton to which a false trade description was applied; and with selling one piece.

Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (of Messrs. Denny and Bowley) prosecuted, and Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the defendants.

Mr. Grist—I would like to know whether my friend appears as Crown Solicitor or as a private prosecutor. Either he appears for the plaintiff, who is nominally a plaintiff, or else he appears to prosecute as Crown Solicitor.

It is a matter of very great importance.

Mr. Bowley—The complainant on the record is Sergeant Watt. The actual complainants are Messrs. Alexander Ross and Co. I appear for them.

Mr. Grist pleaded not guilty on behalf of the defendants.

Mr. Bowley said the charge was brought under section 3 of the Merchandise Marks Ordinance, 1890, subsection 2, which enacted that every person who sold, or exposed, or had in his possession for sale, any goods to which any false trademark, or false description had been applied, unless he proved certain things, to be guilty of an offence against the Ordinance. Under subsection 3, any person found guilty was liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment of not more than four months or a fine.

His Worship—The maximum fine is \$100.

Mr. Bowley—Yes, and forfeiture of the goods. Proceeding, he said a trade description was defined in section 2 of the Ordinance, subsection 1. In this case the description was as to the weight of the goods. The facts were that Sergeant Watt went to the defendants' shop on October 21st and asked for a piece of what was generally known as turkey red cotton cloth largely used for purposes of decoration. Sergeant Watt, who understood and spoke Chinese, asked the second defendant for a piece of turkey red. The man produced a piece from a case containing a number of similar pieces, showed it to Sergeant Watt and told him the price would be so much. After a little bargaining the price agreed on was \$1.65. Sergeant Watt paid the money and received a receipt from the accountant in which the cloth was described as "one piece 3lbs. scarlet plain cloth." The "3lbs" was in English characters. The Sergeant weighed the cloth, and would tell his Worship that it weighed only 2lbs. After leaving the shop Sergeant Watt returned and said he did not think the cloth 3lbs. The master said—"It does not matter that is the way we get it from Japan," and showed him what purported to be the invoice for the cloth. Mr. Bowley submitted that on those facts he was entitled to a conviction, as it was obvious that when a person sold a piece of cloth marked 3lbs and it only weighed 2lbs. that the ticket was a false description.

After Sergeant Watt had given his evidence as to the purchase, he admitted in cross-examination that the master of the shop was willing to take the cloth back if he was not satisfied with it.

Mr. A. Cousland, manager of Messrs. Alexander Ross and Co., stated that his firm imported many qualities of turkey red, which was usually distinguished by the weight of each piece.

Cross-examined—Do you know Chow Kwong or the Tai Ling, customers of yours?—No.

Now, would you be surprised to hear that the piece before the Court was sold at a weight of 2½lbs the other day?—Not by us.

It was sold on the 26th of this month at a weight of 2½lbs; is that surprising?—I am not surprised at anything a Chinaman sells.

The actual weight is 1½lb. 9oz.; you couldn't tell us the weight it came to you as?—No.

You could not say what you sold it as?—No.

Have you ever weighed any of this stuff of an inferior quality?—Yes.

And have you not found that the bundles are a little light?—I weighed several bundles lately and they were all above weight but one, which was an ounce under.

These pieces might lose as much as a quarter of a pound by being kept?—I wouldn't expect them to vary more.

Mr. Grist asked his Worship to dismiss the case on the evidence of the Sergeant. There was no suggestion of the defendant hiding away the goods or anything of the kind. He answered all the questions of the Sergeant, gave him all the information he wanted, and showed him what purported to be the invoice for the cloth. These people had acted quite innocently in the matter. The complainant did not weigh the cloth, but sold it at invoice weight. Did his Worship mean to say that a man could possibly be held guilty of a criminal offence for that? It must first be shown that somebody was deceived or there was intention to deceive some person. The master did not intentionally attempt to deceive the public. With regard to the account-

ant, he was not responsible in any way. He was in the service of the other man, and his Worship could dismiss him at once. The prosecution had to prove that some fraud had been committed; it could not be committed simply by mistake; it must be intentional.

Mr. Bowley said his friend was trying to import the doctrine of *mens rea* and guilty knowledge into the case; whereas it had nothing to do with the case. Did the man prove in the evidence that he took all reasonable precaution? After the offence was committed he tried to hedge—

Mr. Grist—That is absolutely an unfair statement. My friend has no right to comment on evidence not before the Court. The Sergeant says the man acted in a perfectly honest way.

Mr. Bowley—The sergeant went back to the shop and said he did not think the weight was correct. Of course this put the men on their guard.

Mr. Grist—That is an unfair statement again.

Mr. Bowley—I submit that the charges have been proved.

Wong Sing-cho said the other defendant was his foki, and acted under his instructions. When the Sergeant questioned him about the weight of the cloth, witness said Japanese goods are so, if you do not want to buy them you need not. The goods were invoiced from Japan as 3lbs. He did not weigh them in the ordinary course of business, and the label was put on by the manufacturer.

Cross-examined—Witness imported 480 pieces of the turkey red and sold all but ten. They all had the 3lbs. label on them.

You knew perfectly well when you sold them that the bales did not weigh 3lbs?

Mr. Grist—My friend knows he cannot ask that question.

Mr. Bowley—I will not press it, but in a recent case at the Supreme Court the Attorney-General asked a man whether he had committed a murder.

After Mr. Grist had again addressed the Court, His Worship fined the first defendant \$50, or two months' imprisonment on the first charge, and cautioned him on the second. The second defendant he discharged, and made an order for the forfeiture of the ten pieces of goods which the defendant had in his possession.

PROPOSED CHINESE FETE AT HONGKONG.

ITS AWFUL POSSIBILITIES.

A Chinese reader writes to tell us that at present there is a discussion in the Chinese community of a suggestion made by some well known members to have a Chinese procession planned on an elaborate scale, as a means of "relieving the Colony of its depressed condition in trade and restoring to it its former prosperity." According to one of the local vernacular papers, the *Sheung Po*, the project is under the consideration of the Government, whose sanction to it is being largely looked forward to by those concerned. Our correspondent wishes through us to warn the Government of the serious consequences of the procession being held here. "The influx of people from the Interior to witness the spectacle would be a source of spreading contagious and infectious diseases detrimental to the health of the Colony," he says; "and the law breakers, rogues and vagabonds would not lose sight of the opportunity to select Hongkong as a suitable spot to play their nefarious and felonious games. Unless the police be on the alert and stringent measures be taken, the Colony would be infested with bad characters, whose presence would be the cause of such crimes as burglary, robbery and theft, and a menace to the residents whose lives and properties would be in constant danger. The stall holders in the markets would take advantage of the great demands for food stuffs, owing to the arrival at Hongkong of spectators in great numbers, to raise the cost of the food supplies. Consequently the residents would have to bear loss by the dearth of commodities."

MINISTERING CHILDREN'S LEAGUE.

The Ministering Children's League—that excellent organisation founded some years ago by the Countess of Meath whereby children of parents comfortably off were enabled to show in a practical way their sympathy for the young people less fortunately circumstanced than themselves—is represented in Hongkong by an active branch, and the result of the labours of its members and associates are seen in the annual bazaar at which the work done during the year is offered for sale. October 31st the Bazaar and fête, held under the above auspices, was favoured with fair weather, and a considerable number of ladies and gentlemen attended to show their interest in an undertaking inspired by such laudable motives. Mrs. May, who is the president of the League, had working with her a number of ladies as associates, and the outcome of their efforts was praiseworthy indeed. The Volunteer Parade Ground was bordered with bunting, and in this enclosure a number of stalls, laden with fancy goods, were erected. There were also several devices calculated to provide amusement, and visitors found ample opportunity for spending money in a good cause. The proceeds, it should be added, are divided among local charities. In charge of the stalls were:

Tea Stall—Mesdames Hastings, Saunders, Vaughan Lee, Beasley, Fremantle, Misses Alice Berkeley, Evelyn Layton, Joan Master, and Kathleen May.

Ice Stall—Mesdames D'Esterre and Baiss.

One Toy Stall—Miss M. Loureiro, assisted by Mrs. Stedman, Miss Chapman, Marie Rozario, Eileen Hastings and Iris May.

Toy Stall—Mrs. Tuxford assisted by Mrs. Parker.

Sweet Stall—Miss L. Loureiro assisted by Madame Bribosia, Mrs. Macdonald, Miss Rodger and Marjorie Rodger.

Other stalls were presided over by Mrs. Peter, Mrs. Longridge, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Danby, Mrs. Bateson-Wright, Miss Chatham, Miss Campbell and Mrs. Robson, assisted by many children.

The concert in the Drill Hall, which was largely attended, proved most enjoyable. The Witches Dance by Miss Vere David was a graceful performance, the action song "Golliwog" by Desmond Carter and Geoffrey Smith was cleverly rendered, while Miss Vida Grimbale, though unable to recite by reason of a sore throat, played a pianoforte duet with her father. "Humpty Dumpty" was given by the Misses Grimbale and after another dance by Miss Vere David, Miss Doris Grimbale contributed a recitation. Then came another coon song by Desmond Carter and Geoffrey Smith, followed by the glee "Daxies lead a happy life" participated in by the Misses Grimbale, Harry Hughes, Desmond and Tiger Carter, Geoffrey and Jack Carter. Mr. G. Grimbale played the accompaniments and acted as master of ceremonies. Miss Gill arranged the children's performance.

Not the least of the attractions of the Fancy Fair, were the Musical Tableaux Vivants in the Drill Hall. All the seats were taken before half past five, the time advertised for the commencement, and many had to stand at the back of the hall. The "living pictures" were well staged, with appropriate scenery, and the vocal and musical accompaniment added greatly to the success of the entertainment. The curtain rose on "Twickenham Ferry" with Mrs. Leefe as the fair passenger and the Hon. Mr. F. H. May as the bold ferryman. In a series of three tableaux Mrs. Wait and Mr. Daniel illustrated the song "The Miller and the Maid" in a way much appreciated by the audience, and Mrs. Pemberton, in "My Lady's Bower" made quite a Marcus Stone effect. An action song by the Misses Berkeley and Miss Layton, wearing sun-bonnets and carrying sheaves of wheat and poppies, made a pleasing break, and the "Three Little Maids" were evidently very popular. Mrs. Mackay made a charming picture in a dainty setting, in the tableau of "Love's old sweet song," while the four jolly old monks, Messrs. Leefe, Worcester, Daniel and Tratman, caused much merriment in "To-morrow will be Friday." The last of the tableaux was rather long in preparing, but was a very pretty picture, after

Alma-Tadema. The costumes were Grecian, the grouping and colouring being very well arranged, although the stage was too small to allow of the best possible effect. The Greek maidens who disported themselves "lazily, drowsily" on a carpet of roses, were Mrs. Wait, Mrs. Pemberton, Mrs. Leefe, Mr. Mackay, Miss Layton and Miss M. Berkeley. The tableaux were arranged by Mrs. Somerset Playne, and the scenery was supervised by Mr. H. W. Bird.

EVOLUTION OF HONGKONG.

[Written for the Daily Press.]

(Continued from last week.)

V.

The association with a British officer of two former servants of the Company, however wise in principle on the establishment of an entirely new service where the first chief must of necessity be inexperienced, had no doubt evil after consequences, as the ever active local officials could not but see, or think they saw, a plain intention on the part of the new régime to conform to the old ways. At all events, seeing their old friends whom they had learnt they might bully with impunity, they immediately on their arrival proceeded to "put them in order." It was doubtless natural enough, but Lord Napier, a former Captain in the Navy, as naturally objected: the trouble began on his arrival at Canton. Lord Napier, finding that Plowden who it was intended should await him in China had gone home, made J. F. afterwards Sir J. F. Davis, of literary fame in connection with China, Second Superintendent, and Sir G. B. Robinson, unfortunately another of the Company's former Select Committee, Third.

His next step was to proceed to Canton with the object of presenting his credentials, naturally expecting the ordinary civilities; but everything had been prepared to show him that only on the old footing could he enter. His coming was announced as that of "some Foreign Devils", and the tide waiters tumbled his baggage about with as little respect as they would serve a common coolie. To these indignities he offered no opposition, but he sent word to the authorities to inform them that in accordance with His Majesty's instructions he had arrived as the bearer of the King's Commission, and invested with political and judicial powers, for the control of British subjects in China. The reply, sent through the Hong merchants, threw down the gauntlet of defiance;—"The Viceroy could hold no communication with outer barbarians." He, however, appointed two prefects and a lieutenant general commanding the troops to go with the Hong Merchants, to see Lord Napier and ascertain what he really wanted. The interview took place, but beyond hinting at hostilities, nothing came of it; it was beneath the dignity of the Emperor's officers to have any dealings with tradesmen, and no correspondence except headed petition, the lowest form of address, could be received. Lord Napier's instructions did not give him any implicit directions in such an unexpected position, and he remained for some little time at Canton, with the result that the Hong Merchants again were sent to order him to leave; not obeying, orders were given to stop supplies, and the merchants were forbidden to ship any goods in British ships; and attempts were further made to persuade individual British merchants to separate themselves from the Superintendent.

Lord Napier on this called a meeting of the British merchants at the port, who at his suggestion established a British Chamber of Commerce, the first constituted in China: it is interesting to notice familiar names—J. Matheson, Launcelet Dent, R. Turner, W. Bird, and Dadabhai Rustumjee. The Viceroy having thrown down the gauntlet showed no desire to draw back. He stopped all British trade, closed communication with Whampoa, and surrounded the factories with a cordon of soldiers. British merchants were told that no hindrance would be placed in the way of their retirement to Macao, but on no account would they be permitted to return; while the store-

keepers were forbidden to give them supplies, and a few who had ventured to do so secretly were imprisoned. After consultation with the new Chamber of Commerce Lord Napier despatched an order for H.M.S. Imogene and Andromache, to come up, and send ashore a guard of marines for the protection of the Factories. The Chinese opened fire on the frigates on their entering the river, but they easily silenced the batteries. Characteristically the Viceroy now found that he was permitted to open negotiations with the Superintendent, but pleaded that there was no precedent for a British Minister taking up his position on Chinese soil; still if he would retire from the port, and withdraw his ships outside the Bogue he was quite willing to treat, and pending replies from Peking the trade would be reopened. Looking at his instructions, which forbid putting to hazard the existing opportunities of intercourse, Lord Napier, whose health had given way under the climate and the indignities to which he had had to submit, conceived himself bound to agree to these terms, but being unable to act himself, delegated his physician, Dr. Colledge, to make the best terms he could. A meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was called and a sort of protocol drawn up in which it was agreed that the ships of war should retire, that trade should be reopened on the usual terms; and that the superintendent, being too unwell to attend to business should go down to Macao. For some unexplained reason, Dr. Colledge, who was anxious at any cost to get his patient away did not stipulate that he should be taken by one of the men of war, but permitted him to be carried on board a Chinese vessel, the authorities promising to take every care of him.

The temptation was too strong; the Chinese mandarins had won a complete victory, and had now their enemy in their power; magnanimity was never a weakness of the race, so instead of taking Napier quietly to Macao, the opportunity was seized of making a parade of him as a prisoner. The ordinary passage from Canton to Macao is under twenty-four hours, but this was prolonged to five days, the boat decorated with flags of triumph, and the crews everywhere received with firing of guns and crackers. Worn out with illness, and conscious of failure, Lord Napier was beyond recovery, and breathed his last of a broken heart a fortnight after his landing at Macao.

The authorities at Canton reported to the Emperor their victory, and received in reply the imperial orders that for the future no foreigner making any pretence to official rank was under any conditions to be received; and that the chief of the traders for the time being should be content with the rank of taipan, which had been all that had ever been conceded to the agents of the East India Company.

It was probably fortunate for Lord Napier that he died before the worst indignity of all had fallen upon him. He had been appointed to his office by Lord Palmerston, but in the reaction after the Reform Bill Lord Melbourne's ministry had fallen, and the Duke of Wellington now occupied the office of Foreign Secretary. Personally the Duke was glad of the opportunity of revenging himself on Palmerston, whom he detested, so forgetful of what in all good feeling was due to a man who had succumbed to a cowardly attack on him in the discharge of his duty, he openly stated that Lord Napier had brought his misfortunes on himself by assuming high-sounding titles, and going to Canton without permission. The Duke had doubtless a tender feeling for the old Company, and shared doubtless the Chinese official detestation of mere traders, whose ardour had to be repressed.

Lord Napier was succeeded in his by no means enviable post by Mr. J. F. Davis, better known in the literary world as the first English Chinese scholar who rose to any general eminence. Though an old servant of the Company he was not blind to those faults that had tended to make the British name in China despised, and openly advised that the extraordinary pretensions of the Chinese Court to universal sovereignty were at the bottom of the trouble. He recommended the sending of a small squadron to represent this fact at Peking; if successful affairs would right themselves; if not, as half measures had proved useless, it was better to wait till the nation at large was

convinced of the necessity of placing our intercourse on a sounder basis. Under these circumstances the whole British Community of Canton and Macao, comprising in those words the whole of China, got up a petition supporting Mr. Davis, which they forwarded to His Majesty in Council. It is curious to observe that this, historically the most important petition ever presented from China, bore just sixty-four signatures. The petition stated their unanimous opinion, that the long acquiescence in the arrogant assumption of superiority over the monarchs and people of other countries, claimed by the Emperor of China, had caused the disabilities and restrictions which had been imposed on British trade; and that to Lord Napier's lack of the requisite powers backed by a proper armed force, was to be attributed the present degraded and insecure position of British trade and British traders.

The course which they recommended, and which within seven years was forced by the logic of facts on an unwilling British Ministry, was that a minister with full plenipotentiary power supported by a sufficient armed force, be sent directly to the Emperor to demand ample reparation for the insults heaped in his name on Lord Napier; accompanied with proper guarantees for the future, as well as the opening of the northern ports to British trade.

Some dissatisfaction was also felt locally that the Company, though debarred from actual trade still kept up its association of Bill Brokers at Canton, whereby the trade of the private merchants was much hampered and its independence destroyed.

[To be continued.]

THE NORTH-CHINA INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the North-China Insurance Co., Ltd., was held at the Head Office, Shanghai, on Oct. 22. There were present Messrs. A. McLeod (Chairman), F. A. Fairchild, A. Hine, J. N. Jamieson, W. D. Little and A. Zickermann (Directors), Mr. G. W. Bayne (Secretary), Messrs. W. H. Anderson, R. H. Beauchamp, Qua San, H. C. Simms, C. W. Wrightson, H. J. Such, J. M. Young, J. Mordhorst, H. A. J. Macray and A. C. Read, representing 785 shares.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting, the Chairman said:—Gentlemen—The report and accounts for the past year have been in your hands for the past day or two and I presume you will take them as read. I have very little to say as regards the accounts and I hope you will think they are satisfactory. I have now the pleasure to move that the report and accounts as presented be accepted and passed. The declaration of a final dividend of 7½ per cent, making in all 15 per cent for the year,—a contributory bonus of 15 per cent and transfer of the balance to Underwriting Reserve, thus closing the accounts for 1906—and further your consent to the directors' proposal to transfer £15,000 from the Underwriting Reserve Account to the permanent Sterling Reserve thereby bringing this fund up to £125,000 which still leaves us with ample funds to meet all known outstanding risks,—a state of affairs which, taking into consideration the exceptionally heavy losses we experienced during 1906 will, I feel sure, be extremely satisfactory to all shareholders taking an interest in the welfare of the Company. I may mention that the dividends have been calculated at an exchange of 2s. 10d. per Tael which was the current rate at the time when it was found necessary to fill up the warrants for dividends and bonus. It was impossible to tell at what rate dividend would be paid, but it has been the custom for years past to fix it for the day that books are closed. There is very little difference in the rate then and now—2.9 against 2.10. At the last meeting the chairman regretted the unsatisfactory state of trade connected with the Far East during the previous year; this condition has not, I regret to say, improved since the date of our last general meeting, but up to the present I am glad to be able to state that the condition of our affairs looks very promising for the current year, and if we continue to enjoy the good fortune which

has attended us thus far, we shall, at our next meeting, I have little doubt, be able to present you with a statement of our working which will show an increased prosperity in the affairs of the company. I have nothing more to say with regard to the accounts, but should any shareholder wish to have any information that is not contained therein, I should be glad to answer any question which may be put.

There were no questions and the following resolutions were passed:—

That the report and accounts as now presented be accepted and passed. Proposed by the Chairman seconded by Mr. J. N. Jamieson.

That a final dividend of 7½ per cent on the paid-up capital, and a bonus of 15 per cent upon contributory premium; be distributed, both payable at the exchange of 2s. 10d. per Tael, and the balance to be transferred to Underwriting Reserve Account, closing the account for 1906.

That £15,000 be transferred from Underwriting Reserve Account to the permanent Sterling Reserve.—Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by F. A. Fairchild.

That Messrs. McLeod, Fairchild, Hine, Jamieson, Little and Zickermann be re-elected Directors of the Company, and that the remuneration of the Directors be Taels six thousand per annum, as proposed and passed at the General Meeting held on October 23rd, 1906. Proposed by Mr. J. M. Young, seconded by Mr. C. W. Wrightson.

That Messrs. Wingrove and Hayter be re-elected Auditors of the Company. Proposed by Mr. H. A. J. Macray, seconded by Mr. J. Mordhorst.

Mr. J. M. Young proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding and to the Court of Directors for their work during the past year. This was accorded and the meeting terminated.

CHINESE ENGINEERING AND MINING COMPANY, LTD.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., Ltd., will be held in London on the 28th October 1907, when the Directors' report and accounts for the financial year ending February 28th, 1907, will be submitted.

EXTRACT FROM DIRECTORS' REPORT.

The net result of the year's transactions shows a balance to the credit of profit and loss account of £208,396, made up as follows:—

Net profit, after providing for all charges in China	£241,215
Add Balance brought forward from last year	£6,614
Gross receipts in London	c. (4) 12,744
Total	£253,959
Debit Expenditure in Europe, Salaries, stores etc	£7,100
Debitures, interest	25,184
Debitures, redemption	10,000
Directors' fees	3,250
	45,538
Leaving a net balance of which the Directors recommend should be appropriated as follows:—	£208,396

In placing to reserve for depreciation £40,000 (making a total reserve of £15,000)

In paying a final dividend of 1/6 per share (free of tax) payable 2nd Nov. '07 75,000

Making a dividend of 15 per cent. for the year with the interim dividend of 1/6 per share paid on 1st May 1907 75,000

Directors' percentages on profits in accordance with the articles of association 6,840

And carrying forward 11,556

£208,396

Thirty nine deportees and undesirables arrived in the Colony on Oct. 31 by the s.s. *Hongan* from Singapore. They are being kept at the Central Police Station and will be returned to China as early as possible.

COMMERCIAL.

The Kobe Prices Current and Market Report published by the Kobe Foreign Board of Trade, and dated Kobe, Hiogo, October 15th, 1907, states:—

IMPORTS.

Cotton.—American.—The condition of the crop reported by the American Government on the 3rd inst. was 67.7, and 1,430,263 bales ginned. In spite of these reports "forward" cotton has been fluctuating with a somewhat weak tendency. Good Middling closes at Y39.50, there being practically no change since our last report. In view of prices being still high, mills are not directing their attention very much to American cotton, and no fresh business is reported with the exception of some speculative sales at below home prices. "Spot" is quite nominal—there being practically no stocks available. Middling is quoted at Y37. Indian.—Notwithstanding the weak tendency of American "forward," Indian staples have maintained high prices owing to the absence of rain in cotton districts and the anticipation of small crops in consequence. These conditions prohibit business. Transactions which have been reported are on a speculative basis. "Spot" is very quiet and dull. Quotations are: Broach Y30.50, Bengal Y23.25. Chinese.—Business is still progressing very favourably in this direction, owing to good crop and comparatively cheap prices. Large "forward" transactions are reported daily, due materially to the heavy decline of silver and the consequent fall of exchange in China. "Forward" prices are ruling in the neighbourhood of Y28.50 to Y28.75. "Spot" is likewise finding buyers at Y28.50 for "best" and Y25 for "common" quality. Shirtings.—Enquiries continue and a few transactions have been done. Cotton Goods and Fancies.—Market unchanged. Worsteds and Woollens.—The first part of the season is over and there are more stocks left in Importers' hands than usual. Business in the interior is good, but in Osaka slack. Metals.—Very little doing. Sugar. Beet.—Market continues quiet. Cane.—Raw.—A moderate amount of business has been reported at unchanged prices. Muscovados Basis Polarisation 96 per cent. average 12½ D.S. is quoted at Y5.80 per picul, c.f.i. Osaka Refined.—The Osaka Refinery held auctions on both the 6th and 12th instant. At the first sale 21,000 bags were offered; 20,500 bags were withdrawn. At the second auction 21,000 bags were offered; 20,500 bags were disposed of at unchanged prices, and 500 bags at an advance of 2 sen. At both auctions considerable quantities of Molasses were offered for sale but were withdrawn. Rice.—Market steady. Some fresh business is reported.

EXPORTS.

Tea.—Settlements to date amounts to piculs 65,400 against piculs 59,100 to the same period last year. Copper.—No business. Fish Oil.—Market unchanged, small stocks of Herring offering at quotation but without buyers; of other grades nothing offering, no transactions reported. Rice.—Market easier. Cotton Yarn.—The market, which declined during the last week, has somewhat recovered. Business, however, is almost at a standstill. Vegetable Wax.—The market during the past fortnight has remained most inactive and closes weak with downward tendency. Matting.—The market remains very firm with eager buyers for all grades. Straw Braid.—The demand continued strong throughout the period under review, and prices were well maintained in consequence. Consuming markets showed more inclination to respond to the higher quotations ruling on this side, but the volume of new business was restricted somewhat on account of the disparity existing between prices. Chip Braid.—There has been more enquiry for this class of goods, and the concessions made on both sides have resulted in fair settlements during the past fortnight. Prices, however, continued too high to encourage much new business.

COAL.

From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report, dated October 24th, 1907. Japan.—Although there have been a number of inquiries on this market very little business has been done owing to the very serious drop and uncertainty of exchange, the scarcity of stocks in Japan and the scarcity of coal tonnage.—Freights are up to \$1.55 a ton between Japan and this with every chance of their keeping up for some little time.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of 31st October, state that 18 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 83,200 tons of coal. Since October 20th 6 steamers have arrived with a total of 22,800 tons of coal.

Cardiff.—Small sales are reported on private terms. Australian on offer at \$11.00 ex ship—no buyers. Japanese best kinds steady with no business to report. Other kinds neglected.

Quotations:—

Cardiff.....\$14.00 to 15.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Australian.....\$11.50 ex-ship, sellers.
Yubari Lump...\$12.00 nominal.
Miiki Lump...\$10.00 nominal.
Moji Lump.....\$6.50 to \$8.50 ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreened\$6.00 to \$7.50 ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump...\$8.00 to \$8.25 steady.
Labuan Lump \$8.25 nominal.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report, dated Hongkong 1st November, 1907, states:—Nothing of interest has occurred during the past fortnight, and business has again been on a very restricted scale. Considering the season of the year and the prospects of an abundant yield of the new rice crop, there is little or no animation in the market, and it would now appear that the speculative element in the bazar, which in previous years contributed so much to enliven the market, has been entirely eliminated by the collapse last year of the enterprising old operators and dealers. Prices here and there show a further appreciation of \$1 to \$2 per bale. No. 10s participating largely in the advance and forming as usual the bulk of the settlements. Receipts during the interval are not heavy, and stocks show a small decrease on last estimate. Bombay is reported dull, the enquiry from the Levant and Manchester having slackened off and there are no signs of a revival so far as the principal European markets are concerned. Sales of the interval aggregate 3,991 bales, arrivals amount to 3,839, unsold stock estimated at 47,000, and sold but uncleared bales in second hands at 22,000 bales. Local Manufactures.—Continues quiet. Japanese Yarn.—No sales, importations having entirely ceased owing to much higher prices ruling in the home markets. Raw Cotton:—There is a fair enquiry for superior grades of Indian cotton, but the market is bare of stock. About 150 bales medium Bengals are reported to have changed hands at \$19 to \$20. In China kinds 205 small bales have found buyers at \$25. Stocks: Indian 490 and China 670 bales. Quotations are Indian \$18 to 21, and China \$24 to 25½. Exchange on India, after small fluctuations, closes weak today at Rs. 151½ for T/T and Rs. 152½ for Post. On Shanghai 74 and on Japan 99½. The under-noted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the three weeks ended the 26th ultimo, viz:—Indian:—There has been a small speculative enquiry and sales of about 4,500 bales are reported at an advance of 1 to 2 Taels. Estimated stock about 100,000 bales. Japanese:—Total sales about 3,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 83 to 90 for No. 16s, and Tls. 90 to 95½ for No. 20s, prices showing an advance of 2 Taels. Local:—No business from first hands.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 24th October, 1907, states:—Sterling exchange which closed at 2s. 9½d when our last was written continued to decline until it had reached 2s. 8½d T. T. when a reaction took place, and for the past day or two a half penny better has been offered to remitters. This slight improvement has done little to ameliorate the situation, beyond raising the hopes to some extent, but has certainly not accelerated business at all. Fresh transactions have been practically quite out of the question, and re-sales only possible where the holders had covered their exchange in the neighbourhood of three shillings. Fortunately quite a fair amount of this had been done, apart from the gambling transactions encouraged by some of the Exchange Banks, and so some resales are possible on about the previous basis of prices. Newchwang has continued to show some disposition to buy American goods, this week sheetings being favoured with most attention. Stocks there are said to be extremely moderate and orders for fresh supplies only come down for what is actually required, nothing being sent up on speculation. Prices are reported to have improved about five candareens only, the effect of the decline in exchange not having been felt there yet, although the export trade should be stimulated thereby. Still no specific details are available of the Tientsin situation, but it is said to be most

precarious through this drop in exchange, and there is no enquiry from that quarter for Piece Goods, though some small orders for Indian Yarn have come down. Chefoo has bought a fair quantity of American Sheetings from second hand holders during the interval. For the rest there is little to say. Hankow appears to have received some set back that has considerably weakened her demand for goods, but the near Yangtse markets may benefit to some extent by the permission that has just been granted by the Government to export some 1,500,000 piculs of Rice to Japan, though such an action, on top of the severe famine caused by the shortage in the last crop and consequent prohibitive prices to which the market was forced, and still remains abnormally high, is quite inexplicable to the mere onlooker. The Korean trade is practically at a standstill, as far as imports from this are concerned, owing to the drop in exchange. The Cotton market has been subject to some severe fluctuations owing to the disturbed state of the financial situation in New York chiefly, though several would-be authorities prognosticate a much lower basis than it has been on for some considerable time. This seems to depend a great deal on the condition of the new crop, as well as its size. Some think there will be a considerable contraction in the trade, though it is obvious the 20 per cent. additional spindles that will be in full working in Lancashire alone must require an increase on the former rate of consumption. The fall in price, however, has not affected the position of the weavers, who appear to be entirely in the hands of the spinners, as owing to the exorbitant prices they are asking for yarn there is little or no margin of profit in the weaving business. Under such circumstances it is not surprising prices for cloth in Manchester are not showing a decline commensurate with that in the raw staple, but this may be all changed if the new crop in the United States turns out to be of better and more even quality, obviating the necessity of spinners paying so much more "on" to keep the quality of their yarns up to the standard. The course of the Liverpool market has again been erratic during the interval. First a recovery to 6.52d., then a decline to 6.35d. for Spot and 6.01 for "futures," and to-day a further decline to 6.17d. Egyptian has advanced to 10½d. The New York market is in a state of semi panic owing to the financial troubles there. The quotations for cotton there came yesterday 10 cents for January and 10.50 cents for March, these low prices being chiefly due to the financial situation and did not represent the intrinsic value of the staple. On a strong stand being taken, however, by holders, and their refusal to sell at such low figures, the quotations have come to-day 10.65 cents for December and 10.30 cents for Jan. The freely circulated rumour that 1,000 bales American goods had been re-sold to New York is incorrect, nothing has been done. There is a little better feeling in the market for yarns, accentuated by an improvement in prices all round. First hand holders of Indian Spinings are showing a rather better disposition to meet the views of buyers. A fair export business is reported in native cotton, chiefly for Japan, at full rates. The Indian crop, though backward, is expected to turn out better than was anticipated, but the wheat crop is a failure. Almost the entire business from first hands has been conducted in the Auction rooms and shows scarcely any diminution last week, but on the whole the results were a little less favourable. Yesterday the tendency in Grey Shirtings was slightly firmer, but this morning a rather weaker feeling was prevalent, a few of the heavier makes being the exceptions.

From Messrs. Ilbert & Co.'s Report dated Shanghai, October 25th, 1907:—The nervous state of exchange has again stifled trade, whilst rain and a stringent money market have interfered with clearances. The only markets which have bought anything worth recording are Chefoo and Korea, the former having purchased some American Sheetings and the latter about 400 bales of English 10-lb. Shirtings, all from native hands. The liquidation of a very large native account in American goods, principally consisting of heavy sheetings, and amounting to a total of Tls. 580,000 at current market values, is reported to have been successfully negotiated by a native syndicate of substantial means, which has taken the cargo over at Tls. 530,000 and, although the account is stated to be fully solvent, it is somewhat assuring that this large amount of goods is in hands that can hold it and prevent the slump in values which would have resulted had it been thrown on the market. Some of the re-sales which show a decline on recent values are part of the above, and no doubt show a margin on the price at which they were taken over, to those now interested in them. A few small

further re-sales of 3½ and 3¼-yard Sheetings back to America are reported to have taken place during the week at prices which return better values than those current here. Manchester prices continue to be at a level considerably beyond possibility of replacement, especially at the present exchange, and although there appear to be one or two weakish spots, standard makers seem to have enough to keep them going. The position of manufacturers in America is a strong one, nearly all the principal productions being fully sold up to January next, and light-weight constructions are mostly engaged up to June. Grey Shirtings 14-lb.—Our market is still suffering from the recent drop in exchange and only a very limited business has been done at about last prices. T-Cloths.—These have been quite neglected during interval. Auction prices eased off somewhat. Jeans.—There is a little more life in the market though buyers and sellers still find it hard to connect. White Shirtings.—The week has been a very bare one, only two small transactions being made public. Cotton Flannels.—Indian Head is reported to have been done in small quantity at Tls. 410. Dyed and Fancy Cottons.—Resales of old stocks still continue to occupy Chinese and no private sales are returned. Figured Cotton Lastings and low quality Fast Blacks are reported to be rather firmer in consequence of the continued demand from the river markets which dealers are fully able to satisfy from their own stocks. Fast Black Cotton Lastings declined all round at auction and Turkey Reds with a few exceptions were weaker again. Worsteds and Woollens.—The market is quite firm, but we have not heard of any private sales. At auction Camlets and Lastings were easy and Long Ells and Spanish Stripes fairly steady. Cotton.—The local staple continued firm throughout the greater part of the week, but a cessation of buying has brought about a distinctly weaker feeling at the close.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 1st November, 1907.—Business has been quieter during the past week, owing mainly to the continued financial stringency, and to some extent the reluctance of holders to meet the ideas of prospective purchasers for the stocks chiefly in request. Rates, however, have remained fairly steady, and in some instances give promise of material improvement under easier financial conditions. Exchange closes at 2/0½ T/T on London, and at 74 T/T on Shanghai.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have again been booked at \$665 (old) \$660 (new) at which rates a few more shares are probably procurable. The London quotations are slightly lower at £75 and £74. 10s. respectively. National continues quiet with a reported sale of a small parcel at \$51.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have strengthened considerably, and can now be placed at \$780 after sales at the rate. North China are also firmer and in request at the improved rate of Tls. 73½. Yangtzes continue on offer at \$17½, but selling orders for Cantons have been withdrawn, and it is doubtful if shares are procurable at the nominal quotation of \$250.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs are wanted at \$302½, and it is probable that a higher rate would be paid for a suitable parcel. Chinas continue in request at \$86.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been booked at \$29, \$29½ and \$29½, closing with buyers at the latter rate. Shells are procurable at 43s. Other stocks under this heading are unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars and Luxons continue on offer at quotations, but without attracting buyers.

MINING.—Cantons have been fixed at \$9, and more shares could probably be placed. Charbonnages continue in request at \$470.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are quiet with sellers at \$103. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been booked at \$67, at which rate the market closes steady. Shanghai Docks are somewhat easier in the North at Tls. 73½, but Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have improved, and are now quoted at Tls. 201.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Quotations are unchanged and we have heard of no business in this section.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have declined to Tls. 55, and Internationals to Tls. 52. Other stocks under this heading are unchanged and without business.

MISCELLANEOUS.—The chief feature in this section has been the sudden and unexpected advance in China Providents from \$9 in the early part of the week to \$9½, and afterwards to \$9¾, falling away, however, almost immediately to \$9½, and later to \$9¼, the market closing with probable sellers at the latter rate. China Borneos have been booked at \$10 and more shares are wanted. Green Island Cements have been in fair request, and sales have been effected at \$11½ and \$11½, market closing quieter at \$11½ sellers. Electrics have been booked at \$14½, Watkins at \$2½, and Watsons at \$11, the latter closing with sellers. Union Water Boats have declined to \$11½.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	{ \$125 } { \$125 }	\$865, sales & sel. \$860, Ln. 275 Ln. 274.10
National B. of China	26	\$51, sales
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$6½
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$10, buyers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$8, buyers
China Provident	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 55
Hongkong	\$10	\$10½, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 52
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 90
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 280
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16.75, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$67, sales
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$103
New Amoy Dock	\$61	\$11, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 73½
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 201
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$16, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	210	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$14½, sales
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$100, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$240
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$25½, buyers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$250, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$86, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$90, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$302½, buyers
North China	25	Tls. 780, sales
Union	\$100	\$785, buyers
Yangtze	\$80	\$170, sellers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$98
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$104
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$36, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 101
West Point Building	\$50	\$48
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$470, buyers
Raubs	18/10	\$9
Peak Tramways	\$1	\$12, buyers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$2, (new) buy.
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$104, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$21, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$37½
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$29½, buyers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	25	{ \$41, Prefd., el. \$29, Defd., sellers }
Shell Transport Co.	21	43½, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$21, buyers
Do. New	15	\$11, buyers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$22, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$6, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$20, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$5½
Watkins	\$10	\$2½, sales
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$11, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10
Do. Founders	\$10	\$150, buyers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$11½, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending 27th October, 1907, states:—The past week we are glad to report has not been marked by the dangerous and violent fluctuations of the previous one, and rates, with a few exceptions, have not varied to any extent. Business on the whole has been quiet but satisfactory. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/0½. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. We quote \$670 for the old and \$660 for the new. At this rate for the latter there are a few shares on offer. Insurance.—North-China Ins. Shares have been inquired for during the week at Tls. 76. A dividend of Tls. 2.85 is paid to-day. No other business reported. Shipping.—Shanghai Tugs. Ord. shares are still on offer at Tls. 45 and Preference have been placed at Tls. 50. Indo-China S. N. Co. We quote nominally Tls. 80 for the Pref. and Tls. 20 for the Deferred. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd. A slight inquiry has been manifested for these shares during the week at Tls. 73 for cash and Tls. 74 for December. No actual business has resulted. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. The market opened with sales at Tls. 202 and Tls. 202½ December which was subsequently followed by a decline to Tls. 200. Some cash shares came out for sale and were placed at Tls. 194, Tls. 193 and Tls. 192½. Yesterday, however, the market strengthened somewhat and Tls. 196 was done for cash and Tls. 200 and Tls. 201 for December. Business has been done for March at Tls. 207½. Sugar Cos.—There is nothing reported. Mining.—There is nothing reported. Lands.—Some lots of Shanghai Lands have been placed at Tls. 101. Industrial.—International Cottons. A sale was made during the week at Tls. 54 December. Ewos have been placed at Tls. 57½ December. Shanghai Gas Co. Shares have changed hands at Tls. 107. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. On the 17th our market opened with sales at Tls. 310 and Tls. 315 cash, with the market at Tls. 325 for December. These rates have not varied to any extent, and at closing we quote Tls. 312½ for cash nominal, and Tls. 317½ for December. Buyers. Shanghai Sumatras have declined to Tls. 112½, at which rate shares are on offer. Miscellaneous.—Hall and Holtz have buyers at \$21. S. Montrie & Co. Shares are wanted at \$38. Weeks & Co. have changed hands at \$21. Astors. There are sellers at \$22. Shanghai Mutual Telephones have dropped to Tls. 56. Loans and Debentures.—Shanghai Municipal Debentures of this year have been placed at Tls. 28½.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, November 1st.

ON LONDON.—Telegraphic Transfer	2/0½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/0½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/0½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/0½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/1½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/1½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	256
Credits 4 months' sight	262
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2 9
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	49½
Credits, 60 days' sight	50½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	151½
Bank, on demand	152½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	151½
Bank on demand	152½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74
Private, 30 days' sight	74½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	99½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	100
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	13½ p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	122½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	4½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	4 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	73
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$ 9.70
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$51.40
BAR SILVER, per oz.	27½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent.
Chinese	20 cents pieces	\$4.40 discount
"	10 " "	5.40 "
Hongkong	20 " "	4.10 "
"	10 " "	5.15 "

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

October—

ARRIVALS.

25, Headley, British str., from Keelung.
 25, Heliopolis, British str., from Chinwangtao.
 25, Montrose, British str., from New York.
 25, Nanchang, British str., from Newchwang.
 25, Persia, Austrian str., from Shanghai.
 25, Shaohsing, British str., from Shanghai.
 25, Tean, British str., from Manila.
 25, Waisuing, British str., from Wuhu.
 26, Fukushu Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
 26, Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
 26, Indien, Danish str., from Kobe.
 26, Signal, German str., from Saigon.
 26, Singan, British str., from Hoihow.
 26, Taintau, German str., from Bangkok.
 26, Vorwaerts, German str., from Macao.
 27, Shoshu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 27, Sungkiang, British str., from Iloilo.
 27, Taishun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 27, Taiyuan, British str., from Australia.
 28, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 28, Idomeneus, British str., from Shanghai.
 28, Kumano Maru, Jap. str., from Australia.
 28, Pitsanulok, German str., from Bangkok.
 28, Prinz Ludwig, Ger. str., from Singapore.
 28, Tonkin, French str., from Marseilles.
 28, Yarra, French str., from Yokohama.
 28, Yueusang, British str., from Manila.
 28, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 29, Arratoon Apear, British str., from Moji.
 29, Chingtu, British str., from Kobe.
 29, Derwent, British str., from Saigon.
 29, Ellen Rickmers, German str., from Moji.
 29, Hangsang, British str., from Swatow.
 29, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
 29, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
 29, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.
 29, Nikko Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
 29, Sexta, German str., from Saigon.
 30, Alcinous, British str., from Singapore.
 30, America M., Jap. str., from San Francisco.
 30, Drufar, Norwegian str., from Swatow.
 30, Huohing, British str., from Coast Ports.
 30, Hohenstaufen, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
 30, Hongmoh, British str., from Singapore.
 30, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 30, Tambo Maru, Jap. str., from Japan.
 30, Yochow, British str., from Amoy.
 31, Delhi, British str., from Shanghai.
 31, Devanha, British str., from Bombay.
 31, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Swatow.
 31, Hupoh, British str., from Haiphong.
 31, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., from London.
 31, Kansu, British str., from Wuhu.
 31, Kwangse, British str., from Chefoo.
 31, Kwangtab, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 31, Palermo, British str., from London.

October—

DEPARTURES.

25, Gulf of Venice, British str., for Shanghai.
 25, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Ithaka, German str., for Chinkiang.
 25, Laertes, British str., for Saigon.
 25, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 25, Numantia, German str., for Portland.
 25, Oriel, British str., for Christmas Island.
 25, Progress, Norwegian str., for Sandakan.
 25, Suevia, German str., for Haiphong.
 25, Yotorofu Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 26, Chinkiang, British str., for Ningpo.
 26, Empire, British str., for Australian Ports.
 26, Forestdale, British str., for Hongay.
 26, Japan, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 26, Michael Jebsen, German str., for Swatow.
 26, Ningpo, British str., for Swatow.
 26, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 26, Taiwan, British str., for Saigon.
 26, Tatsu Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 27, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 27, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 27, Headley, British str., for Singapore.
 27, Kumerio, British str., for Tacoma.
 27, Kwongsang, British str., for Swatow.
 27, Montrose, British str., for Manila.
 27, Taishan, British str., for Hongay.
 27, Tinhow, British str., for Calcutta.
 28, Indien, Danish str., for Saigon.
 28, Keong Wai, German str., for Swatow.
 28, Kowloon, German str., for Nagasaki.
 28, Onsang, British str., for Singapore.
 28, Paklat, German str., for Hoihow.
 28, Persia, Austrian str., for Singapore.
 28, Vorwaerts, German str., for K. C. Wan.

29, Mauban, British str., for Saigon.
 29, Petohaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
 29, Prinz Ludwig, German str., for Shanghai.
 29, Tonkin, French str., for Shanghai.
 29, Tosa Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle, &c.
 29, Yarra, French str., for Enrope, &c.
 30, Amoy, German str., for Newchwang.
 30, Dagoy, Norwegian str., for Newchwang.
 30, Fukushu Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 30, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 30, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 30, Moomtheus, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
 30, Shaohsing, British str., for Shanghai.
 30, Tean, British str., for Manila.
 31, Alcinous, British str., for Shanghai.
 31, Deli, German str., for Bangkok.
 31, Hilary, German str., for Batavia.
 31, Hohenstaufen, Ger. str., for Singapore.
 31, Hongbee, British str., for Amoy.
 31, Kumano Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
 31, Nanchang, British str., for Swatow.
 31, Sungkiang, British str., for Cebu.
 31, Taiyuan, British str., for Sydney.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Arratoon Apear*, from Moji. Capt. and Mrs. Cosay.
 Per *Chingtu*, from Kobe. Mr. and Mrs. Bums and daughter, Miss McRillian, Messrs. Holmes, Mitchell, Foster and Geddings.
 Per *Taiyuan*, from Australia, &c., Mrs. Ewing, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Walker, Misses Watson and Sullivan, and Mr. Randall.
 Per *Zafiro*, from Manila. Mr. and Mrs. Sargeant, Capt. and Mrs. Farmer, Misses Brown, Sargeant, Nolan, Collamore and Price, Master J. Nolan, Messrs. Valencia and Willado.
 Per *Prinz Ludwig*, for Hongkong, from Southampton. Mr. and Mrs. Roth, Mrs. M. Colbert, Misses Bradley, A. Baker and M. Weaver, Rev. Hutchinson and family, Messrs. S. Dallar, S. Gay, S. Sadler and A. Crapnell; from Gibraltar, Mrs. d'Oliveira Lopez & family, Messrs. Celle de Menezes and family, and B de Castro Licares; from Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. Wahl, Mr. and Mrs. Offederer, Mrs. Schultz and child. Mrs. M. Sudell, Messrs. A. Lohr, Dietrich, Eberkin, and O. Diericke and party; from Naples, Mr. and Mrs. Schnldt; from Penang, Miss K. Martwell, Messrs. Ryn Main and servant, R. Sampul; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Voyelde Lorm, Mrs. Voule, Capt. Low, and Mr. Sudell.
 Per *Devanha*, for Hongkong, from London. Mrs. Grenfell, Dr. E. K. Wheeler, and Mr. J. Allen; from Marseilles, Capt. J. G. Adamson, and Mr. A. K. Macqueen; from Brindisi, Mr. Cohn and servant; from Bombay, Mr. M. C. Shroff, and Miss K. Gardner; for Shanghai, from London. Mrs. and 2 Misses Ball; from Marseilles, Messrs. J. M. Dawson and J. R. Smeaton; from Brindisi, Mr. T. Smith; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, and Mr. M. Harding & child; for Yokohama, from London. Mr. and Mrs. F. Durant, & Mr. T. C. Stafford from Marseilles, Messrs. B. D. F. Beith and W. Newton; from Brindisi, Mr. Nutter.
 Per *Delhi*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong. Messrs. G. A. Morse, H. C. E. Cate, C. Parry, Tjivopinghie, Gaustin and Bossard; for Bombay, Mr. E. P. Lalcaoca and servant; for Calcutta, Col. and Mrs. G. Shell; for Marseilles, Messrs. G. Ballock, R. N. Miller, A. R. V. Thompson & A. W. Brankston; for London via Marseilles, Mr. C. S. Clark; for London. Mr. and Mrs. J. Murray, 2 children and infant, Mrs. Hards, Misses Grünbech, M. E. Waters, E. Turner and Burn, Master Jackson, and Mr. R. Agnew; from Yokohama, for Singapore, Miss Heyden, and Mr. M. J. C. pur; for New York. Mrs. J. Bourne; for Brindisi, Miss Parker Ness; for London, Mr. and Mrs. R. Sadler, and Miss E. McVean.
 Per *America Maru*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Jos. N. Folwell, jr. and infant, Mr. and Mrs. John Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. F. Richmond, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Stack, Rev. and Mrs. L. E. Worley, Mrs. R. Benz, Mrs. K. M. Duncan, Mrs. Jas. F. Smith, Misses G. W. Carman, Norine Larimer, Ida Monsteller, A. Porter, M. A. Porter and H. Weingarth, Lieut. Wm. H. Shuten, P.C., Messrs. L. de Brittan, Wm. C. Brady, D. H. Blake, Zoito Diaz, J. Delbourgo, M. A. Eransquin, Jos. N. Konecny, C. H. Loeber, D. M. Mulligan, Edward Pond, Carl A. Schneider, John R. Schneider and Rudolph Scherer.

Per *Lightning*, from Calcutta, &c., Master J. Kynool, Messrs. P. Melbawe, J. Firm and A. Durlon.

Per *Hohenstaufen*, from Japan, &c., for Hongkong, Inspector and Mrs. H. Meisenthin; for Singapore, Consul and Mrs. Th. Haynes and child, Mr. and Mrs. L. Grey, Mr. and Mrs. L. Stark, and Mr. F. Adams; for Penang, Mrs. S. Primrose and 4 children; for Plymouth, Mrs. E. Willoughby and 2 children, and Miss E. Bradford; for Naples, Mr. and Mrs. W. Richter and child, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lübs and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. B. Ludwigs, child and amah, Mr. and Mrs. van Pebrogh, Mrs. A. Laphiere, 4 children & amah, Mrs. A. Ludwigs, Mrs. E. Wallen, 2 children and amah, Miss N. Martin, Miss S. D. Pilcher, Miss L. Borgonove, Messrs. A. Klein, E. Richard, O. Sievertsen and G. Trysmacher.

Per *Tonkin*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mrs. E. Ricco, Messrs. Valenzuela and MacGregor; from Colombo, Mr. C. G. Livermore; from Singapore, Mr. P. Stone; from Saigon, Messrs. S. B. Neill, Mauronkakis and Zinakas; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Lethumier, Miss Lorrain, Messrs. Eymar, Vanderstegen, Moglioui, Rataboul and Goldschmidt; from Colombo, Mr. Odai and infant; from Singapore, Messrs. McTully, Irtlar, and Tehebaroff; from Saigon, Mr. Kruger; for Kobe, from Marseilles, Mr. de Kerbrg; from Colombo, Messrs. Osikagawa, Kawaguchi and Yokota; from Singapore, Mr. et McOjeki; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Messrs. E. Binder, H. Lemoine and Wexberg and infant; from Colombo, Ito; from Singapore, Mr. Schliebner.

Per *Yarra*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Messrs. R. P. Bait and Michael Ivanon; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Heckwold, Messrs. H. R. Phelps, L. Pollock, G. Muhlmann, Hardouin, R. F. Hume, Minnit and boy, A. E. Gutierrez and boy, H. D. Laos, E. M. Kroy and Itikawa, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice, Mrs. Greiffenberg and Mrs. Esuga Fukuda; for Saigon, from Kobe, Mr. M. Mohidin; from Shanghai, Mrs. Espinosa, Dr. Ricon, Messrs. C. Millon, Monod, Nicolas Cristowith, Jourdan, Izern, Sivan, Mattendari and Giovanni; for Singapore, from Kobe, Misses Yamamoto & Fujita, Capt. Hankey, Messrs. J. H. Hamoy, O. Raichi, K. and E. Ono; from Shanghai Mr. and Mrs. Clonet and 2 infants, Mr. and Mrs. Sokolawa, Mrs. Minalade, Mrs. Soffrisidrown-sky, Messrs. S. Kauffmann, A. Ron Abrah and Nakamura; for Colombo, from Yokohama, Mr. G. M. Charles; from Kobe, Mr. Badetti Achille; for Port Said, from Shanghai, Mr. Orphanidis, and Mr. Protopapa; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Mrs. St. Lucie, & Miss E. Daydé; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Descoates and infant, Mrs. de Lapeyrière and baby, Capt. Sérnin, Messrs. Echang Souvien, R. P. Maur, Lambert, Mourgues, Charrault and Jacques.

DEPARTED.

Per *Tonkin*, for Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mr. and Miss Douse, and Mr. O. A. Holm.

Per *Yarra*, from Hongkong, for Saigon, Mr. H. Rochiram, Revs. P. Blais and Chaigor; for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Mackinley, Mr. and Mrs. Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. Terence Randale, Revs. Otani and Harada, Messrs. E. C. Crosset and S. A. Chotirmal; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Tattara, Mr. and Mrs. Joas José Bettenconst de Maneag, Madame Newion, Messrs. J. Ehrmann, M. H. Varella, J. S. d'Oliveira, J. M. C. Bastos, C. Machado and J. Maria.

Per *Prinz Ludwig*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Hanbury, Mrs. David and child, Mrs. Goodfellow and child, Mrs. Dudaich and child, Miss Master, Miss Pereira, Miss V. E. B. Baugh, Master Zuzarte, Messrs. L. Zweiger and family, Along, Tamburg, Chr. C. L. Master, and S. B. Neill; for Nagasaki Mr. T. Haron; for Yokohama, Mrs. Volpicelli, and Miss D. Framerey.

Per *Empire*, from Hongkong, for Australian Ports, Mr. and Mrs. Irving, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Woodhouse, Mrs. F. Gordon, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Williams, Miss McFarlane, Miss Samsob, Messrs. Broadway, F. Jones, Lloyd, Louissou, C. M. Preshaw, B. J. Smart, C. S. Taylor and A. Thomas.

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